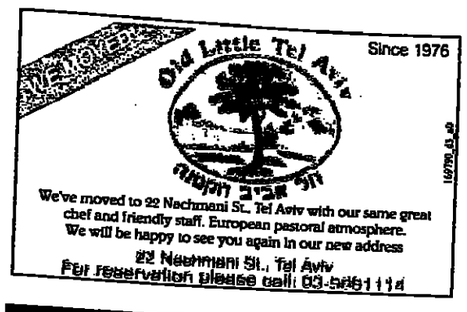
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THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION

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US strikes at terrorist bases

Sites hit in Afghanistan, Sudan

By LAURENCE MCQUILLAN

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The US yesterday launched military strikes on "terrorist-related" bases in Afghanistan and Sudan believed to have been involved in the bombings of two US embassies in Africa, President Bill Clinton said.

"We have convincing evidence these groups played the key role in the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania," Clinton said in a hastily called news conference in Edgartown, Massachusetts, where he was on vacation.

"Today, we have struck back," Clinton said, before heading back to Washington to meet with his national security team.

In his later television address to the American people, he added that he ordered the strikes to try to head off more attacks that were considered imminent.

The attacks came amid worries Clinton might be hindered in his presidential responsibilities by the furor surrounding his admission of an affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Some Republican members of Congress questioned whether the military action was in response to his political situation. But others, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, backed Clinton's actions.

Since the attacks at embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam that killed 263 people on August 7, there has been speculation the bombings were the work of Saudi-born millionaire Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden was under Afghan protection and was known to have followers in Sudan.

Clinton said the targets included a terrorist base in Afghanistan affiliated with Bin Laden and a "chemical weapons-related" facility in Sudan.

Afghanistan's Taleban Islamic movement said US jets bombed Khost and Jalalabad areas in the east of the country, but that Bin Laden was safe. A spokesman, Abdul Hai Mutmaen, told Reuters by telephone from Kandahar that the jets did not appear to have hit their targets.

Exact details of the attacks were not released by the US. "There may be other operations that might be required," Defense Secretary William Cohen said.

A senior White House official said there were no US troops on the ground.

Residents in Khartoum said two military jets flew over the Sudanese capital and they heard three or four explosions.

Sudanese authorities said the privately owned Ashifa pharmaceutical plant in Bahri, an industrial zone 20 km. north of the city center, was hit. There were no immediate casualty reports.

Information Minister Ghazi Salahuddin said American planes had fired "one light bomb and then five missiles."

"I have no doubt that this aggression is to divert the attention from the cases from which the American president is suffering," he said, referring to the Lewinsky scandal.

"The US launched an attack this morning on one of the most active terrorist bases in the world," Clinton said. "It is located in Afghanistan and operated by groups affiliated with Osama bin Laden.

"We also struck a chemical weapons-related facility in Sudan," he added. "Our target was the terrorists' base of operation and infrastructure. Our objective was to damage their capacity to strike at Americans and other innocent people."

Gingrich strongly supported the move by Clinton.

"I think, based on what I know, that it was the right thing to do at the right time and I think I've been involved in briefings for the last two weeks and I think it's been done in a methodical, professional way," he said.

Strike follows long US-Sudan feud, Page 2

Because of Monica?, Page 7

See US, Page 12



US President Bill Clinton announces the bombings of terror bases in Afghanistan and Sudan yesterday to reporters in Edgartown, Mass. (AP)

Hebron man killed in terror attack

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Shlomo Ra'anan, 63, of Tel Rumeida in Hebron, was killed and his wife Chaya wounded by a terrorist who entered their caravan last night and stabbed him before throwing a firebomb inside the caravan and setting it alight.

Details on Chaya's condition and the nature of her injuries were unavailable at press time.

The IDF Spokesman said soldiers were combing the area and that the area between Gross Square and Tel Rumeida had been declared a closed military zone. He said that Palestinian security forces had been notified and were searching their side of the city.

Security forces prevented reporters from approaching the site and asked them to wait in the Avraham Avinu enclave.

Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Hebron Jewish community, said the terrorist entered through a window.

Neighbors, alerted by screams, rushed to the couple's aid, but Ra'anan died at the scene.

"During the past month, more Jews have been killed and yet the government continues talking to the PLO and our defense minister expresses his willingness to give over more land to the murderers," Arnon said.

Arnon called on the government to stop all negotiations with the Palestinians and demanded that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai concentrate his efforts on granting full security to the Jewish residents of the territories.

Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, said Ra'anan, who worked in Jerusalem, was one of the oldest members of the Hebron Jewish community.

He and his wife, who have three married children, had moved to Tel Rumeida six years ago.

PM backs US air strikes

By LIAT COLLINS

Israel supports the American fight against terrorism, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said last night in response to the US strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan.

In a statement issued by his office, Netanyahu praised the US, "particularly for choosing to hit the terror infrastructure and terrorist bases in Sudan and Afghanistan." He said the targets are "legitimate."

It is not clear whether the US informed Israel of its intent to attack, and the timing appears to have been unknown to the prime minister.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he supports US President Bill Clinton and Secretary of Defense William Cohen on "this brave decision and action against terrorist targets."

"The war against terrorism, wherever it may be, is never ending and vital to ensure security and stability in the world," Mordechai said.

See PM, Page 2

PA security men reap millions in tax scam

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian legislators are investigating reports that scores of Palestinian businessmen, most of them with close ties to Israel, were tortured and imprisoned until they paid hundreds of thousands of shekels to Palestinian Authority security officials.

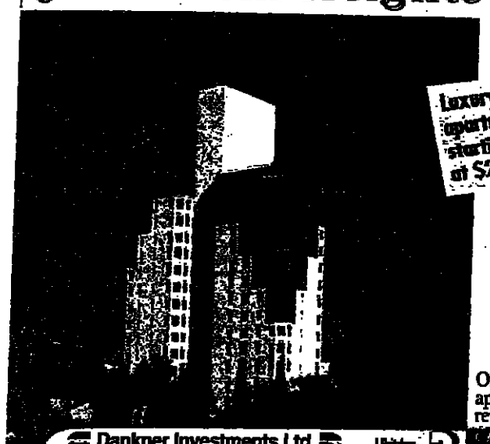
The legislators were responding to a report by the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, which obtained affidavits from 36 businessmen from the Hebron area who maintain that they were imprisoned on vague accusations of tax fraud and languished in jail until they paid thousands of shekels in cash.

The report says at least NIS 7 million was extorted by two different security services and a Jericho prosecutor, money that was never transferred to PA tax authorities. PA officials acknowledged that they recruited security agencies for tax collection and said they are now facing difficulties accounting for the money.

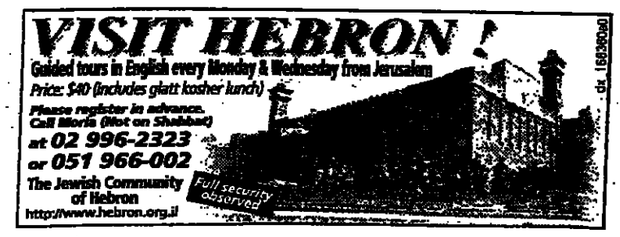
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Tel Aviv	6:58 p.m.	7:57 p.m.
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Beersheba	6:55 p.m.	7:52 p.m.
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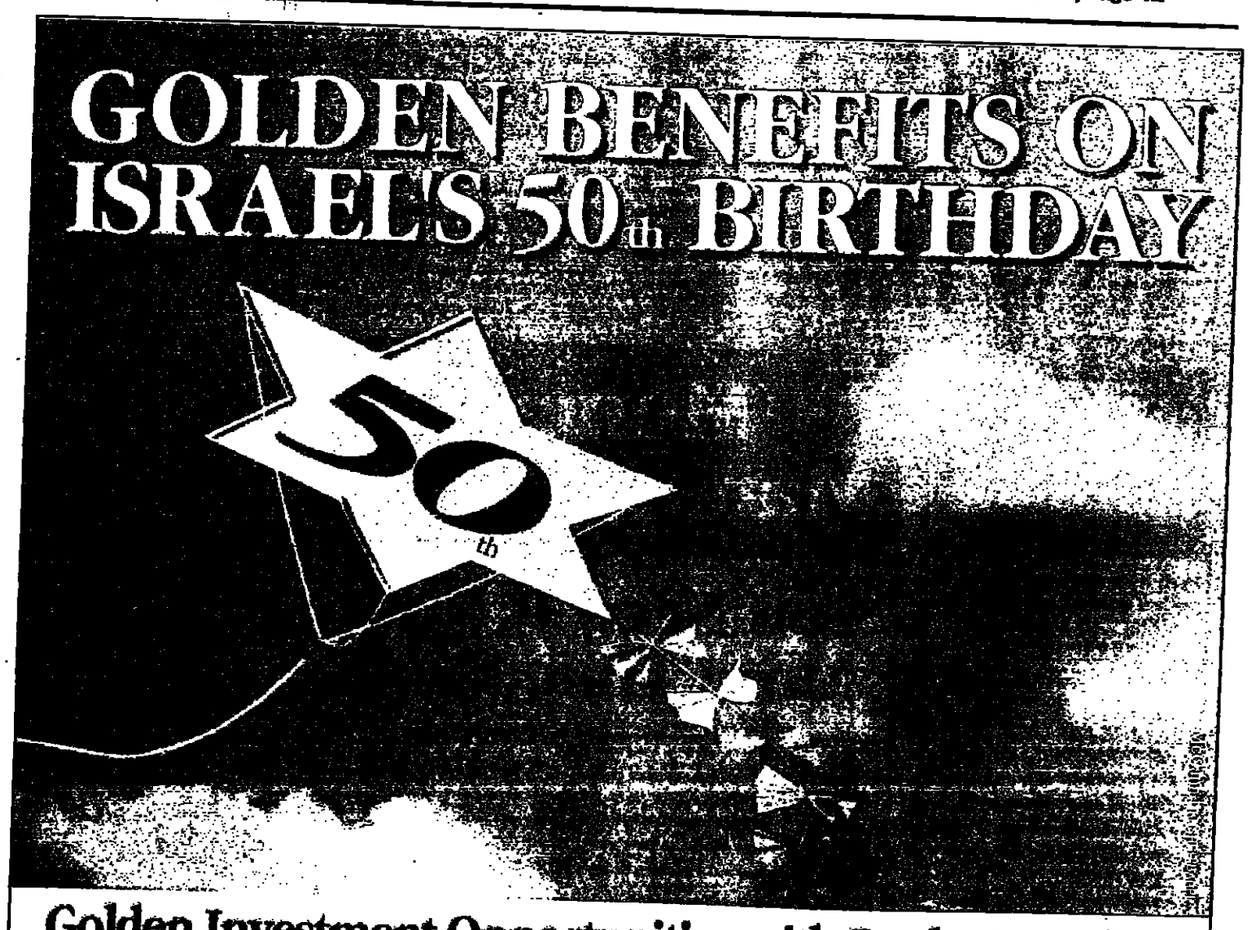
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NEWS
in brief

Security to be tight on Temple Mount

Heavy security forces are to be sent to the Temple Mount this morning to guard against possible disturbances on the 29th anniversary of Michael Rohan's attempt to burn down the Aksa Mosque.

Police said they had information that such disturbances were planned. Leaflets were distributed calling for Moslems to gather on the mount for mass prayers. Police will set up roadblocks in eastern Jerusalem and around the capital.

Rohan, an Australian Christian, was charged with arson, but was declared mentally ill and was deported in 1974. *Itim*

Suspected rapist escapes from J'lem jail

Aljoue Ayman, 30, of Adina, a suspected rapist and robber escaped from the Moriah station jail in Jerusalem yesterday, police said. Early yesterday morning , he left his cell to go to the bathroom and managed to run away from the policeman accompanying him.

A month ago, police put out a warrant for Ayman on suspicion of fraud, breaking and entering apartments in Jerusalem and Kiryat Gat, and the rape and robbery of a Jerusalem resident. He was arrested late Wednesday night near Kiryat Gat.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki said he will severely reprimand several of the officers involved, and will bring to trial the policemen responsible for the incident. *Amy Klein*

Two killed in road accident

Two people were killed and seven were injured, three seriously, when a van overturned on the Coastal Road, just north of Zichron Ya'acov, yesterday afternoon. The van was bringing passengers from Ben-Gurion Airport to the Haifa area. Police said it appears the driver dozed off and lost control of the vehicle.

Killed were a man and a woman, both in their 70s. The injured were taken to Hillel Yaffe Hospital in Hadera. *Itim*

IAF again strikes Hizbullah positions

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah positions in the Soujud region yesterday evening, the fourth such raid on terrorist targets in Lebanon following the death of Sgt. Ori Samuelov in a bomb ambush in the security zone on Wednesday morning.

The four other soldiers who were wounded in the same incident, which occurred not far from the Soujud outpost in the north-eastern sector of the zone, are all being treated in Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Their conditions yesterday were said to be improving.

In the early hours of the yesterday morning warplanes struck at terrorist targets in the area of the Jezzine enclave, north of the zone.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese civilian was wounded when Hizbullah mortar rounds hit Ramiya village in the western sector of the zone during exchanges in the area late Wednesday night. The wounded man was taken to nearby Bint J'bail hospital for treatment. Some property was also damaged by the mortar fire.

Fighting continued in the region yesterday with a long-range attack on a South Lebanese Army outpost in the eastern sector of the zone. There were no casualties in the attack, for which the Hizbullah-affiliated Lebanese Resistance Brigade claimed responsibility.

IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) and committee member MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor) met in Metulla yesterday with SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, in a gesture of solidarity with the force and residents of the security zone.

Landau and Sneh four months ago established the "Security for the North" movement which is opposed to what the founders described as irresponsible calls for unilateral withdrawal of IDF troops from the zone.

Landau criticized Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and the Defense Ministry for not holding the Syrians responsible for Hizbullah's ongoing hostilities.

"I think we should ask the defense minister when the first Syrian soldier will go on a roadside bomb, and why the Syrians don't grind their teeth as we do," said Landau.

Sneh, while not suggesting such drastic action, nevertheless maintained that there was no substitute for the security zone under the present circumstances in south Lebanon.

He stressed that the North was full of visitors because of the battle being waged far from the northern border, in places like Soujud.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, told reporters in the North yesterday that pulling the IDF out of Lebanon, while ensuring the security of the northern border and the well-being of the SLA and residents of the zone, is a top priority.



Yanon Samuelov, 16, flanked by his father Dr. Nissim, looks skyward in mourning for his brother, Sgt. Ori, who was killed in Lebanon on Wednesday, at his funeral on Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl yesterday. (Brian Heidler)

Arabs, opposition slam Golan plan

By LIAT COLLINS, DAVID RUDGE and AP

The Arab League yesterday accused Israel of attempting to "torpedo the peace process" by approving the construction of thousands of new homes in the Golan Heights.

The 22-member Arab League said in a statement issued in Cairo that the decision "reflects the hostile intention of the Israeli government aiming to torpedo the peace process, and its intention to maintain its occupation of the Syrian Golan."

Syrian Radio yesterday said that no action by the Israelis in the Golan would change the reality that "the Golan is Syrian and that all occupied territories should return to their owners."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told reporters yesterday that the plan to build 2,300 homes and 2,500 vacation units in four communities on the Golan Heights is in line with the government's policy. Israel's policy had always been to expand existing communities, he said.

Approval was given for the projects on Wednesday by a ministerial committee chaired by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. The construction is slated for Ramot, Ma'aleh Gamla, Kanaf and Had Ness.

Netanyahu, speaking to reporters in the North where he has been vacationing, maintained that the proposed construction should not prove an obstacle to resuming peace talks with the Syrians. Israel is prepared to enter peace talks at any moment, he said.

The Golan Residents Committee warmly welcomed the planned construction, as did those who favor territorial concessions in return for peace with Syria.

"We are very pleased. This is a project which we have been trying to promote for the past two years," said Katzrin Local Council chairman Sammy Bar-Lev.

"The proposed development is around the Kinneret because that is the area where there is the biggest demand. We have hundreds of people who want to come and live near the Kinneret, as well as those who want to have vacations there."

Yigal Kipniss, of Ma'aleh Gamla and founder of the Derech Leshalom movement which favors territorial compromise in return for peace with Syria, also welcomed the plans.

"We have to differentiate between the interests of local residents and the aspects of the peace process. I am less worried now about the peace process than I was previously," said Kipniss.

Opposition MKs attacked the plan, however. Former Labor leader Shimon Peres called it a "provocation."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called on Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai "to either act to thwart the plan or to resign from the government.

"You can't demand a response on the negotiations with Syria, a withdrawal from Lebanon and the second redeployment and continue to sit in a government which does exactly the opposite," Sarid said.

PM

Continued from Page 1

MK Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, also praised the US attack and said it is time Israel also uncompromisingly fights terror as it did in the past.

"We fully support the US in its firm fight against terror wherever it is found, which is a constant threat to the enlightened world and innocent people," Labor leader Ehud Barak said.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said that "if the footprints do lead to Osama bin Laden as the person responsible for most of the terror attacks in the world today, the US was right and timely. These terrorists, and particularly those who organize and finance them, should be hit."

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 353956 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 885429 won the car.

Tickets 552120, 516777, 029290, 611073, 775458, 527523, 866111 and 286661 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 41873, 20400, 71506, 51476, 56202, 63681, 21446, 41003, 30648, 16289, 59262, 76955, 43654, 97651, 15391, 58716, 23342, 19978 and 42269 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 167, 415, 218 and 015 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 80, 39, 93 and won 40 NIS 30.

Tickets ending in 03 and 72 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 4 and 7 won NIS 10.

US attack follows years of acrimony with Sudan

ANALYSIS

By YEHUDIT KOREN

Yesterday's military attack on Sudan marked a turning point in the already hostile relations prevailing between the US and Sudan since the advent of the Islamist regime of Gen. Omar Hasan al-Bashir in 1989.

The US, and the "imperialist West", as the official Sudanese media refers to it, was perceived by Khartoum as a major force in contriving against it.

The Bashir regime has expressed repeatedly in recent years its belief that the American administration is determined to eradicate it. Khartoum drew its clear-cut conclusion from a series of hostile moves launched against it by Washington.

The most significant of these was the blacklisting of Sudan as a sponsor of terrorism in 1993 and the American-led UN imposition of diplomatic and travel sanctions on the country in 1996.

As would be expected, Sudan ignored the American accusations that it has been involved in international terrorism and in destabilizing friendly countries in Africa and the Arab world, particularly Egypt. Khartoum also ignored US charges that it was damaging the peace process in the Middle East. Sudan also strongly rejected accusations by the US, and other governments in the West, of blatant human rights violations.

The Bashir regime, referred to by one State Department official as the "Khmer Rouge" of Africa, dismissed Washington's antagonism towards it, saying that "Sudan will only kneel to Allah".

But the American strike will certainly lower the political stature of the regime, and may accelerate the activities of the Sudanese opposition, acting to overthrow it.

The writer, an expert on Sudan and North African affairs, is a researcher at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center and the author of Sudan in a Civil War: Between Africanism, Arabism and Islam.

Sgt. Ori Samuelov buried

By AMY KLEIN

Sgt. Ori Samuelov, who was killed in Lebanon on Wednesday, was buried in Jerusalem's Mount Herzl Military Cemetery yesterday, just three days after his 21st birthday.

Samuelov, from Mevasseret Zion, was the 24th graduate of Jerusalem's Rene Cassin High School to be killed in military service or terror attacks in the last four years. The school will hold a special memorial ceremony for Samuelov at the beginning of the school year.

Samuelov's parents – Dr. Nissim, a microbiologist at Hadassah-University Hospital and Dr. Sara, a psychiatric worker at the hospital – and his brother Yanon, 16, clung tightly to one another throughout the funeral.

Samuelov's commander Shai Koller eulogized him: "You set an example for your friends in that you requested to return to serve in Lebanon. You were taken from us, you who fought to return to the unit."

Samuelov had been seriously injured in a traffic accident last year, and went through a arduous rehabilitation which lasted months. Army doctors advised him to seek a discharge or a desk job, but he persisted and was finally allowed to return to his unit.

"Every moment was a celebration with you," said his father, a disabled veteran injured in the Yom Kippur War. "I don't know what I'll do without you. I'm sorry I didn't oppose you, because that definitely would have saved you."

"How can I believe that you are gone?" cried his mother. "Ori [meaning 'my light'], who was a great and wonderful light that fell upon us when you were born."

She planned to celebrate his birthday Friday. "We wanted you to be forever young, with your your special patience and your considerate way."

In a broken voice, she read the lyrics of "Forever Young," a Bob Dylan song she planned to dedicate to her son on his birthday.

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PM: Gaps between Israel and PA have narrowed

By DAVID RUDGE and LIAT COLLINS

The gaps between Israel's position and that of the Palestinians have been reduced, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

"From our point of view we are willing to complete the process. The gaps are not big... they have been reduced. For this purpose, a decision is required of the Palestinians – a political decision," Netanyahu told reporters in the North, where he is vacationing with his family.

"When such a decision is made, we will complete the move and continue onwards to a final status agreement. I want to make it clear that we are not working just to reach an interim agreement. We also intend, with the completion of the interim agreement, to immediately begin negotiations toward a final status agreement. This is an integral part of any agreement we will sign.

"Therefore, there is the possibility of taking a process, which in my opinion was flawed, and try to make the appropriate corrections to minimize the damage and move onto the main thing which is negotiations on a final status peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians," said Netanyahu.

He was asked why he would not be attending the ceremony in Oslo to mark the fifth anniversary of the accords signed there.

"I recognize the fact that we are committed to the Oslo Accords with all their faults, but we are not dealing with celebrations," he replied. "We said that we would demand of the other side mutuality and that we would insist on our security needs and that's what we're doing."

Netanyahu spoke to reporters when he and his wife Sara went to Poriya Hospital to visit the three policemen injured Wednesday, when a car crashed through a barrier that had been set up around the Tiberias hotel where they had been staying. The car was later found abandoned nearby.

"The inquiry into the incident is continuing, but we have no doubt that this related to criminal activity and nothing else," said Supt. Boaz Goldberg, spokesman for the northern police district.

Netanyahu took a break from his vacation yesterday to meet at his hotel with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Sharon would not provide details of their talks. But on Wednesday he repeated that Israel is apparently prepared to carry out a redeployment of 13.1 percent, which he opposes, and that the delay stems from the Palestinian side.

Sharon is reportedly fighting to prevent the transfer to the Palestinians of any part of the Judean Desert or Jordan Valley. His stand is that these areas are vital to security.

President Ezer Weizman reportedly met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai Wednesday night, and yesterday Mordechai spoke with Jordan's King Hussein, who is being treated for cancer in the Mayo Clinic in the US.

PM's decision to snub Oslo ceremony criticized

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

The decision by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu not to attend next week's ceremony in Oslo marking the fifth anniversary of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians has been criticized by both opposition MKs and even coalition chairman Meir Sheetrit.

Sheetrit, who is being sent to represent the government at the event together with the prime minister's political adviser Uzi Arad, said he would have preferred the prime minister to attend instead.

"I cannot get into the prime minister's calculations, but I think he should have been there," said Sheetrit. "Netanyahu and [Palestinian leader Yasser] Arafat need to meet in order to finalize the deal on withdrawal and I don't see how else it can be done."

"It's a terrible mistake," Labor MK and former prime minister Shimon Peres said, of Netanyahu's snub. "We owe our thanks to the people of Norway."

MK Anat Maor (Meretz) said Netanyahu's decision not to attend shows he is ignoring the peace process.

"There was never before in Israel a prime minister so committed to ceremonies and public relations while neglecting peace, security and the economy," Maor said.

Netanyahu said yesterday Israel is committed to Oslo "despite all its faults" but will stand firm on security arrangements and reciprocity.

Arad noted that the US will be represented at the ceremony by negotiator Dennis Ross, not by President Bill Clinton.

Peres and Arafat are planning to attend the event because they were participants in the original process, Arad said.

IDF, Palestinian police reach agreement on Joseph's Tomb

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

In an agreement to end a tense stand-off with the Palestinian Authority, yeshiva students will be permitted to stay overnight in Joseph's Tomb in Nablus until September 3, the IDF Spokesman said last night.

During this period, they will be free to leave and enter the compound, the spokesman said. After September 3, a prior arrangement specifying hours of visitation but precluding overnight stays will once again take effect.

The agreement was reached following talks yesterday between OC Central Command Maj.-Gen Moshe Ya'alon, the Defense Ministry Coordinator for the Territories, Maj.-Gen Ya'acov Or, and Palestinian officials.

The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere, with both sides keen to reach a peaceful solution to the situation and quell tensions, the spokesman said.

Since last Thursday, yeshiva students have been prevented from leaving the compound by Palestinian police, who also refused to allow worshippers to enter.

Ya'alon had granted permission for overnight stays by students, following the murders of two students from the settlement of Yitzhar, Harel Bin-Nun and Shlomo Lieberman on August 5. Palestinians agreed to the stays during the seven-day mourning period (*shiva*), but then objected to their extension.

The September 3 date was chosen as the deadline because it marks the end of the thirty-day mourning (*shloshim*) for Bin-Nun and Lieberman.

Eli Rosenfeld, director of the Od Yosef Chai yeshiva, said last night that everyone appreciated the efforts by the IDF to put an end to what he termed the severe provocation instigated by the Palestinians over the past eight days.

"The main issue for us is that the IDF succeeded in bringing to a halt the Palestinian provocation and returning to us the right to pray and study freely."

Rosenfeld said he did not know what would happen after September 3.

Earlier yesterday Nablus Governor Mahmoud Aloul told reporters that the Palestinians would not allow Israelis to enter the compound until all the yeshiva students inside the compound leave.

He said that the Palestinians suspected that the group of yeshiva students who have remained inside the compound are planning to establish a permanent community and are trying to smuggle building materials inside.

Rosenfeld denied the Palestinian claims and said the students only want to refurbish the dining room and kitchen which were burned in the riots of September 1996.

Last night's agreement culminated a week of intensive discussions. IDF officials said they demanded that the Palestinians refrain from "harassing searches" of students entering the compound and asked them to allow students to bring in the necessary building materials to refurbish buildings burned during riots nearly two years ago.

Yehudit Tayar, Spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said settlers are grateful to the IDF for its efforts to enable overnight stays during the 30-day mourning period.



Palestinian police (l) speak with Israeli security guards yesterday at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, site of a week-long stand-off over visitation rights by students of the Od Yosef Chai Yeshiva. (Reuters)

PA recaptures 2 escaped killers

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

The two Palestinian prisoners serving terms for murder who escaped from Jericho prison on Wednesday night were recaptured hours later, Palestinian Authority security officials said yesterday.

Col. Jibril Rajoub, commander of the PA Preventive Security Apparatus, said Iyad Ibrahim Awajneh and Abdel-Salam Abu Muni, both of them serving 15-year prison sentences for murder, were recaptured in Jericho and returned to prison.

Awajneh was convicted last August of taxi driver Shmuel Ben-Baruch's murder, in a trial that took about an hour.

The PA refused an Israeli request for Awajneh's extradition.

Muni, the other recaptured fugitive, was serving a 15-year sentence for his involvement in the killing of Ibrahim Yagh, a member of the military wing of Hamas.

Rajoub said the two would be tried for their escape.

Awajneh and Muni escaped from their jail cell four days after the breakout of Hamas military leader Imad Awadallah from the same Jericho prison, which is under control of Rajoub's security force.

Awadallah had been held as the chief suspect in the killing of Hamas bombmaker Muhi Sharif on March 29 in what is said to be part of a Hamas internal power struggle.

Rajoub said he was confident that Awadallah would be recaptured.

IDF to strengthen ties with settlers

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon has given new orders to strengthen relations with Israeli residents in Judea and Samaria and instructed servicemen – officers and non-officers alike – to participate in guard duty and patrols on Jewish settlements.

Ya'alon, who took over the command earlier this summer, introduced these and other measures in order to give settlers a better sense of security, said a military official in the central command.

"We are in a sensitive period," said one military official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "In the past there have been strained relations, even a lack of communication, between the IDF and the settlers. Ya'alon wants to remedy this."

Ya'alon has also appointed senior officers as delegates to all communities. These officers will maintain contact with the "Rabashim," or security officers, on each settlement in order for information to flow better between the army and settlers.

According to Ya'alon's orders, every member of the Central Command staff as well as the Judea and Samaria Division will participate in patrols and/or guard duty at Jewish settlements.

"When a resident comes to his settlement and sees, for example, the operations officer guarding the gate, he'll get a better sense of security that the IDF is there to help them," said the officer.

The orders take effect this week. Even Ya'alon is expected to participate in the guard roster.

"The motive behind the increased cooperation between senior army officers and Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria is to enhance their sense of security," the IDF officer said, insisting it was more than just a "symbolic" step.

The move reflects comments made last week by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, who said he wanted senior IDF commanders to spend more time with their soldiers in the field and carryout more visits with their troops on all levels.

According to military officials in the Central Command, the officers and warrant officers accepted the idea once they realized that the extra guard duty would be at extended intervals. Officers were expecting to join patrols or stand guard about once a month.

Margot Dudkevitch adds:

Jewish residents in Judea and Samaria welcomed Ya'alon's directive. Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said residents had always encouraged a positive relationship with the IDF and recalled that the majority of them have served or still serve in the IDF today.

Tayar added, however, that the decision to boost the IDF presence in the settlements confirms settler suspicions about plans for a redeployment. "Not only are they [the IDF] worried and concerned about a future withdrawal but [they] are also aware of the responsibility that such a governmental decision will place upon them to protect the lives of Israeli citizens."

Tel Aviv beaches closed

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health and Interior ministries yesterday declared all of Tel Aviv's and Kiryat Haim's beaches off limits to bathing, after careless contractors damaged sewage pipes in both communities.

Meanwhile, one Eilat beach remained contaminated by sewage, after the spillage earlier this week that had affected the whole northern beach from the Jordanian border to Red Rock Beach.

All of Tel Aviv's beaches, from Jaffa in the south to Reading in the north, were closed to swimming after workers laying the foundations for a building in Jaffa damaged the area's central sewage pipe, through which 200,000 cubic meters of sewage pass each day.

The Environment Ministry accused the Tel Aviv Municipality of negligence, saying that it should have made sure the contractor knew of the sewage pipe's location four meters below the surface.

The sewage line appears on the municipal plans.

Environment Ministry Spokesman Yiftah Kramer said the responsibility for the sewage pipes lies with the local authorities.

"The Environment Ministry has warned several times that local authorities are not doing enough to solve the problem of sewage and sewage pipelines and thus cause severe environmental damage," Kramer said.

Kramer said there have even been cases of underground pipes carrying hazardous materials being hit.

The municipality commented tersely that "it regards the incident with great seriousness." City manager Meir Doron appointed a team to investigate.

Despite the serious health danger, many people went swimming in the affected areas. Eyewitnesses complained that the signs warning about the sewage spill were posted only in Hebrew, and that many tourists and others who don't know Hebrew didn't know about the ban.

Ze'ev Fisch, the Health Ministry's environmental quality official, said that beyond informing the public about the danger, "there's no law that allows handing out fines to violators. People have to understand the risks themselves."

In general, after the sewage pipes are repaired, there is little that can be done besides waiting for the wind and current to cause the solid matter to sink or float away, Fisch said. The authorities will allow bathing at the affected areas only when laboratory tests of samples taken 10 meters from the beach are found to have permitted levels of fecal matter and bacteria.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

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PA officials appeal for more water

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

A senior Palestinian Authority official appealed to Civil Administration officers yesterday for more water as his deputy accused Israel of stealing 72 percent of water from the West Bank.

PA Water Authority Commissioner Nabil Sharif met with Civil Administration officers in Beit El for immediate relief for areas like Hebron, which have been hit hard by the water crisis in the West Bank.

Sharif said the PA needed more Israeli water and cooperation until international projects to increase the water supply reach fruition.

"There is an emergency situation this summer," Sharif told *The Jerusalem Post*. "There is more construction and more people and there is a greater need for water. This summer is critical."

Sharif said he expects the water crisis to ease next summer as several international water development projects are completed.

These include a US project to develop water supply in the Herodion area, which will serve both Bethlehem and Hebron.

Last week, the Italian government donated $3 million for a project to reduce the diversion and waste of water.

"These projects take 18 months or more for results," Sharif said. "We will be asking for more cooperation and more water [from Israel]."

As Sharif sought cooperation, his deputy, Fadl Kawash, accused Israel of being responsible for the water crisis in the West Bank.

He dismissed the assertions of Israeli officials such as National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon that Israel has increased its water supplies to the Palestinians beyond that stipulated in the interim agreements.

"This is completely untrue," Kawash told the PA-aligned *Al-Ayyam* daily. "The crisis in the southern West Bank is a first-class political issue."

Kawash said Israel pledged an increase of between 70-80 million cubic meters of water annually as part of the interim agreements.

But, he said, Israel has only transferred an additional seven million cubic meters of water.

The deputy commissioner said Israel began wholesale violations of the water agreements after the election of Binyamin Netanyahu as prime minister in 1996.

He said Israel has rejected all but seven of 50 requests to dig wells in the West Bank.

Jamal Shubaki, a Palestinian Legislative Council member from Hebron, said: "Bethlehem needs 18,000 gallons, and is getting 7,000 gallons, and Hebron needs more than 50,000 gallons, and is getting 12,000 gallons."

Shubaki said residents are paying NIS 20 for each gallon of water, and waiting for 10 days to receive it by tank.

Kawash said the crisis is reaching dangerous proportions and could result in an explosion in the Hebron area.

He asserted that many homes are without water and hospitals have been threatened with closure because they can't provide fresh drinking water to their patients.



Demonstrators outside Industry House in Tel Aviv demonstrate in support of a bill that would mandate returnable soft-drink bottles. The signs read: "Only a deposit will avoid a disaster here." (Israel Sun)

Greens demand bottle-deposit legislation

By LIAT COLLINS

A group of protesters held a demonstration outside the Manufacturers Association building in Tel Aviv yesterday in support of the bill which would require drink manufacturers to use recyclable bottles which would have a deposit on them.

The vigil was organized by an umbrella group, the Forum for Legislating a Deposit Law, and took place during talks by the industrialists on the deposit bill, which the drink companies oppose, as do the manufacturers of the non-recyclable bottles.

A similar protest organized by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and Adam Teva Vedin (the Israel Union of Environmental Defense) was held last month outside Coca-Cola's factory in Bnei Brak.

According to the protesters, more than a billion empty bottles are thrown away in Israel a year, amounting to some 500,000 tons.

A bill prepared in 1996 and currently passing through the Knesset calls for consumers to be charged a refundable deposit, which would be returned when the bottles are brought back to supermarkets.

The bill has the support of incoming head of the Knesset Economics Committee Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) and several other MKs.

Shai Porat, of the forum lobbying for the law, said yesterday the legislation would reduce waste.

The bill's supporters also note it would promote cleanliness, as children would be encouraged to pick up empty bottles in the street and return them.

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PM's Office urges insurers to compensate Holocaust victims

By LIAT COLLINS

Following Generali's decision this week to join the memorandum of understanding on compensating Holocaust victims, the Prime Minister's Advisor on Diaspora Affairs, Bobby Brown, yesterday called on other insurance companies to do likewise.

His call, at a press conference in Jerusalem, was seconded by Deborah Senn, insurance commissioner for the state of Washington, who is visiting Israel. Both also urged that information concerning the names of policy holders be made available to the public.

"We're talking not only about material compensation but moral compensation," Brown said. "This is the beginning of the return of the dignity of the Jewish people. We are only talking about receiving what rightly belongs to these people."

On Wednesday, an agreement was reached in a New York court between Generali and the Jewish groups, by which the Italian insurance giant will pay $100 million in compensation to Holocaust victim policy holders or their heirs. With this settlement, Generali will enter into the memorandum of understanding proposed by New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Brown described this agreement as "the start of the process." Senn estimated that the final sum could be more than $1 billion.

Senn said an international commission is being established to oversee the claims.

"The Holocaust was not only the greatest murder, it was the greatest theft in history," she said.

She noted that far more Holocaust victims had insurance policies than Swiss bank accounts and called on the names to be made public. "Public access is absolutely a key to this process. And if it's good enough for the Swiss banks, it's good enough for the insurance companies," she said.

Generali gave Yad Vashem a CD-disk with the names of some 300,000 policy holders earlier this year, but it is refusing to allow the names to be published.

"These companies must pay their obligations because that's the job of insurance companies, to pay claimants when the time comes," she said.

Earlier this month, Swiss insurer Zurich Insurance Co. also agreed to resolve the outstanding claims of Holocaust victims.

According to the Associated Press, Generali said it will continue to open its archives on World War II-era policy holders to help heirs of Holocaust victims.

"Once procedural matters are respected, there are no restrictions at all," said Matteo Fabiani, a spokesman for the Trieste-based company.



Holocaust survivor Magaret Zentner, of Queens, left, embraces US Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, (Republican-NY), as holocaust survivor Marta Drucker Cornell, center, of Queens, looks on in front of US District Court in New York Wednesday. (AP)

Doctors perform first liver-pancreas transplant in Israel

By JUDY SIEGEL

Israel's first liver-pancreas transplant took place yesterday at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Tel Aviv.

The recipient was a 23-year-old woman from Rishon Lezion who suffered from serious complications of juvenile-onset (type I) diabetes and liver disease, which made it difficult for her to function.

The complex operation – one of the few such double transplants in the world – was performed by a surgical team that included Dr. Eitan Mor and Dr. Natan Bar-Natan of Beilinson and Dr. Solly Mizrahi of Soroka Hospital.

The recipient was in stable condition in the hospital's intensive care unit last night. Her doctors noted that the diabetes was discovered when she was 16 and she was unable to balance her blood sugar even with daily insulin injections. Three years ago, she developed a serious liver disease.

The same organ donor provided a new pair of lungs to a 20-year-old woman from Nazareth who suffers from cystic fibrosis. When she became pregnant, her condition had become much more serious, requiring her to be hooked up to an oxygen tank around the clock. The operation was performed at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer by a team that included Prof. Alon Yellin, Dr. Michael Peli and Dr. Yael Raphaeli. The lungs were functioning well last night and the recipient was recovering in the intensive-care unit.

Scottish drug suspect used shoelaces to kill himself

By AMY KLEIN

Alistair Sinclair, a Scottish tourist found dead in his jail cell a day after Tel Aviv police arrested him four months ago, used shoelaces to commit suicide, an autopsy report showed.

The findings, by the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir, were obtained by the family and their local attorney only this week. They contradict the initial police report, which claimed Sinclair hung himself from the rafters of his cell using his shirt.

Ben-Gurion Airport police arrested Sinclair, 48, on April 14 on suspicion he had smuggled drugs into Israel. He was en route to Holland. At 7 a.m. the next morning, they found him dead in his solitary cell.

Based on a Scottish autopsy report, which also suggested Sinclair hung himself with his shoelace, Sinclair's brothers decided a month ago to sue the Israel Police and the State of Israel for negligence, claiming that police should have confiscated from Sinclair anything he could have used to harm to himself.

The lawsuit asks for damages of NIS 1 million, both for negligence and for aggravation the family suffered when they discovered that Israel had sent Sinclair's body to Scotland – without a heart.

Israeli officials claimed they removed the heart to see if Sinclair had genetic diseases which might have contributed to his death, and the body was accidentally returned without a heart.

But the Sinclairs believe officials wanted the heart for a transplant, said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the family's lawyer. The family said they were asked about donating organs, but had refused.

Almost two weeks after the heart was discovered missing, a heart was sent to Scotland. The family is currently pursuing DNA tests to determine if the heart is Sinclair's.

According to Darshan-Leitner, police had no basis for arresting Sinclair, but having done so, they should have confiscated his shoelaces – as they did his belt.

Police Central District spokeswoman Leah Zohar said Sinclair had confessed to drug smuggling.

"Airport security detained Sinclair because they were suspicious of his 'double-bottomed' suitcase, which is often used for smuggling," she said. "Police found 8000 Dutch florin (about NIS 14,500) in his possession."

Police have not found the person who allegedly purchased Ecstacy tablets from Sinclair, nor have they traced any of Sinclair's activities while he was here.

Zohar added that it is irrelevant whether Sinclair used a belt or a shoelace to hang himself, because police are only required to confiscate dangerous possessions such as shoelaces from prisoners who seem likely to harm themselves.

At the time of his arrest, Sinclair seemed perfectly stable, she said.

Infiltrator blunders into Negev settlement

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Benny Varon was sitting in his back yard at about 10:30 yesterday morning when a stranger dropped by. Nothing too unusual except that Varon lives in Ezuz, a remote settlement deep in the Negev, and the stranger turned out to be a lost infiltrator from Egypt.

"He was apparently unarmed and blurted out in broken Hebrew and English to be taken to the police," said Ya'acov Kimche, coordinator of the Civil Guard in the region.

Varon, a new resident of Ezuz, which is about a dozen kilometers south of Nitzana, told the stranger there were no police in the area, but offered to help him and promptly dropped him off at the nearby army base, Kimche said.

A search of the infiltrator did not find any weapons or drugs, but revealed that he was an Egyptian, apparently a smuggler.

Smugglers often cross into Israel from Egypt; at some points there is no fence separating the two countries. But this is the first time that an infiltrator actually made it into a Jewish settlement without being caught and it represents a breach in security.

Soon after the incident, the IDF beefed up its patrols along the northern Egyptian border and carried out searches for other infiltrators. None were reportedly located.

Sources in the Ramat Hanegev Regional Council said that IDF patrols had captured five infiltrators in the area in the past week.

"Infiltrators are not unusual," Kimche said. "The fact that he got into a settlement and then asked for the police, that is unusual.

"The Egyptian border is peaceful and infiltrators are mainly drug smugglers. There hasn't been a terrorist infiltration for over 12 years."

NEWS

in brief

Bushinsky: No fatal accidents at Ness Ziona

Following foreign news reports quoted here regarding the safety of the Biological Institute at Ness Ziona, the prime minister's spokesman, Aviv Bushinsky, said that since it was established 45 years ago, there have been no fatal work accidents there.

A report in the British newsletter *Foreign Report* said that four workers had been killed in recent years.

"The institute is under the supervision of the authorized bodies and operates without mishap and without causing damage. There have been no incidents which have caused or could have caused damage in the area of the institute," Bushinsky said. *Liat Collins*

IAF gets new anti-aircraft boss

Brig.-Gen. Arieh Fishbein has been appointed commander of the country's anti-aircraft defenses, the IDF spokesman announced this week.

Fishbein, who was the first commander of the US-supplied Patriot missile batteries during the 1991 Gulf War, will be responsible for integrating the Arrow anti-ballistic missile and Homa defense system into the Air Force.

He will be replacing Brig.-Gen. Gilad Ramot who commaded the anti- aircraft branch for the past four years. Ramot is retiring from active duty, the army said. Fishbein has spent the majority of his air force career in the anti-aircraft branch, first commanding Hawk missile batteries in the Sinai and a variety of field and staff commands. His latest posting was as anti-aircraft commander in the central command. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Israel, Jordan sign agricultural agreements

Israel and Jordan signed three agricultural agreements this week in Amman, formalizing relations in the fields of agricultural trade, veterinary inspection, and plant protection, the Agriculture Ministry announced yesterday.

Israel agreed to allow the duty-free import of 50,000 tons of fruits and vegetables, 900 tons of olive oil, 1,000 tons of cheese, and no less than 30,000 sheep from Jordan.

The sides agreed to cooperate in efforts at fighting against plant diseases, and will exchange information and exports in the effort to eradicate pests. As a result, the transfer of plants will be allowed between the countries. Animals and animal products may be transferred between the countries at specified borders and according to international standards. *Nina Gilbert*

Keep drinking, it's getting hot again

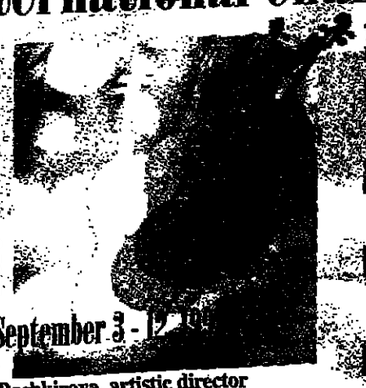
Magen David Adom advised the public again to drink large amounts of water, especially during the next heat wave expected to begin on Sunday. Its ambulance teams treated 270 dehydrated people during the last wave and took them to the hospital. The best way to prevent dehydration is to drink half a liter every 20 to 30 minutes; cool water is preferable to hot, and it's best to avoid carbonated beverages. Keep in the shade as much as possible. Call an MDA ambulance if symptoms appear, and in the meantime, cool the victim's body by removing some of his clothing, fanning him and spraying him with cool water. *Judy Siegel*

New Anne Frank writings to be published

The Swiss-based Anne Frank Fund (AFF) will release a new edition of Anne Franks' diary, containing previously unpublished pages, next year, the Dutch news agency ANP reported yesterday. Earlier this week, a former employee of the Anne Frank House claimed to possess diary notes by the Jewish teenager in which she wrote critically about her parents' marriage. Copyright holders AFF, along with the Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation, which has possession rights on the original papers, are negotiating with the ex-employee for the return of the pages. The AFF said the reprint would contain the five missing pages, plus writings from the original manuscript which Anne's father, Otto Frank, had previously forbidden. *Reuters*

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רעננה עיריית

Perils of Pauline

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Australia is not all beach, booze, birds and barbecue any more, mates. It looks at times like a land increasingly divided against itself.

The next election (not yet announced) is going to be a real doozy and possibly violent. Don't write me nasty letters – I'm quoting the most experienced security expert in Australia.

Roger Martindale was the Australian Federal Police director of VIP protection from 1990 to 1993. Up to last month, he was director of a security and intelligence section with special responsibility for diplomats. He has headed protection for prime ministers during every election since 1975. He was in charge of Bob Hawke's security when he was prime minister in the seven years up to 1990.

That's why his public comments last week fueled one of those "what's happening to us?" debates that rattle the insecure.

"There is now a huge divide in Australia between the city and the bush," Martindale told reporters, "and there are a number of people in the bush deeply, emotionally disturbed about what has happened to their livelihoods. Some believe in conspiracy theories like a so-called One World Government. You can't tell what one or a number of these people might do."

Neo-nasties

By unfunny coincidence, a nasty little neo-Nazi group, *National Action, announced its* democratic action program – it would use violence to protect supporters of Pauline Hanson's One Nation party.

Sad but true – for every IRA there is a "political wing," for every far right political party, there is a Thug Troop. "When leftists have attacked us at our rallies they've been beaten, physically beaten back, and if that's violent, it's simply self-defense," says Nasty Action chairman Michael Brander. Thank goodness for the democratic joys of big boots and self defense.

Hanson hit international headlines in June when One Nation took 23 percent of the vote in the Queensland state election. It was a debut that looked like it would turn into a rolling rightist thunder that would deal Prime Minister Howard's coalition government killer blows across rural Australia.

In case you missed our profile at the time, Hanson is a former fish-and-chip shop proprietor with a nasal whine who fancies herself as Down-Under's Pauline Le Pen. She may be just a flash in a chip pan after all.

Poor man, poor man

Here is a splendid snapshot of Pauline's Policies, written by Sydney author Bob Ellis in *The Age newspaper*: "[Her] present populist cosmetics conceal a harsher agenda, of guns and party cells and sinister company structures and the cutting out of all child-care and arts funding and old-age care ... and Aboriginal specialist education and Asian family reunion. And our right, of course, to write or broadcast anything like the above."

Time for a sense of proportion – Australia may be fermenting, but it is a ferment of the vibrant sort that produces fine Australian wines. There is no separatist movement, as in Canada, unless it be the social separation of the people that Hanson has tried to exploit rather than bridge.

Australia has always been proud of its image as a classless society of equal opportunity. A poor man, with hard work and a bit of luck, could move horizontally to become a rich man, without having to climb any vertical class ladders of snobbery, elitism and exclusion.

No more – the gap between rich and poor is growing and the ways out for the poor are diminishing. There are now at least 100,000 millionaires in Australia and the richest 10 percent of the population own 44 percent of the wealth.

And that "city-bush divide" Martindale mentioned is very real between those who live in the rapidly vanishing rural communities and the ever-expanding cities. Half the population lives in just three cities on this continent – Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane – two-thirds live along that same eastern coastal strip.

Taxes anyone?

Nonetheless, credit for Hanson's falling popularity goes *not entirely to voter enlightenment* or the blockbuster hate-her campaign in the media. (A favorite television vignette of the Hanson voter – a red-faced Anglo-Irish farmer waving his hand vaguely in the direction of a group of Aborigines: "Those people want my land. I'm alienated in my own country, and there's something very wrong with that.")

Now some simple but judicious prime ministerial "bribery" is putting a stake in Hanson's bandwagon wheels. Howard has not announced any election (let's guess – oh, October) so his new offer of tax cuts worth A$13 billion to Auzzies must be pure altruism.

That has brought another funny coincidence, as indicated by a nationwide opinion poll on Tuesday – Howard's Liberal-National coalition government now leads the Labor opposition by five points, the first time it has pulled ahead since May. Support for One Nation has collapsed by four to seven points, according to the same survey. (Newspoll).

Howard took his (non-existent) election campaign into the heartland of Hanson's Queenslanders on Wednesday. "If you really want tax reforms, the message you've got to give your mates is vote for us ... and *don't muck around with minor*ity parties. I can't believe how good our tax plan is for Queensland," Howard told them.

Can't say straighter than that, mate! But what vote?



US Ambassador to Kenya Prudence Bushnell, joins hundreds of Kenyans in the Memorial and prayer service in Nairobi for the victims of the US Embassy bombing yesterday. (AP)

FBI chief tours bombed embassy in Tanzania

NAIROBI (AP) – FBI Director Louis Freeh toured the bombed-out US Embassy in Tanzania yesterday, while in the Kenyan capital thousands prayed and sang at a memorial service held to ease the scars from "the day Satan visited Nairobi.

Freeh, who was traveling to Nairobi later today, met with FBI agents and local officials in the *Tanzanian capital of Dar es Salaam.*

Two bombs exploded August 7 at the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, killing 247 people in Kenya and 10 in Tanzania. More than 5,500 people were wounded.

"We haven't made any conclusions that anybody being held here is connected at this point to the bombing," Freeh said, referring to the two suspects detained in Tanzania. "But we do want to continue to work with our colleagues here to interview not just those individuals but other individuals who may have information."

Tanzanian Home Affairs Minister Ali Ameir Mohamed would not give the names or nationalities of the two men, but said Freeh offered to send *Tanzanian police to Washington,* where most of the forensic evidence is being analyzed.

In Nairobi, thousands wearing red ribbons as a sign of mourning gathered on a grassy hill in downtown Uhuru Park yesterday to seek peace and healing from the attacks.

"It is the day Satan visited Nairobi," President Daniel arap Moi said, at an ecumenical memorial service for the bombing victims.

The names of the hundreds who died were read in batches of six, punctuated by murmurs of "Lord have mercy" from mourners beneath a steel-gray sky. A trumpet soloist played "Amazing Grace."

US Ambassador Prudence Bushnell, no longer wearing bandages over the cuts she received in the bombing, promised that *America would help East Africans* through this difficult time.

"Together we will dispel the shadows of darkness, emerge from the veils of grief, and create a brighter tomorrow," she said.

Both Kenya and Tanzania have pressed for compensation for damage to lives and property. US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright promised aid earlier this week, but did not specify an amount.

Canada's Supreme Court says Quebec cannot secede unilaterally

By DAVID CRARY

OTTAWA (AP) – In a historic ruling sure to ignite controversy, Canada's Supreme Court said yesterday that Quebec cannot secede without the federal government's consent.

The ruling marked a major victory *for the federal government.* But the decision almost certainly will embolden Quebec's separatist government, which contends that residents of the mostly French-speaking province have the right to decide for themselves whether to break away from Canada.

The federal government, alarmed by the separatists' near-victory in a 1995 referendum, turned to the Supreme Court in hopes of convincing wavering Quebec voters that secession would not be quick and painless.

The justice minister asked the court to rule on three questions: *Can Quebec legally declare uni*lateral independence under Canadian law? Can it secede under international law? If there is a conflict, which law prevails?

The court said that under Canadian law, Quebec is obligated to negotiate with the federal government and the other provinces if it seeks to secede. It said international law, in regard to the establishment of new states, does not apply to Quebec's situation.

Quebec's separatist premier, Lucien Bouchard, is in a strong position politically despite the court ruling. He now can run an election campaign in the next few months claiming that Quebeckers' right to decide their own destiny is under siege.

"There is solid public opinion in Quebec that it's not up to the Supreme Court to decide or limit in any way the right of the Quebec people to choose their future," he said last week.

Bouchard was the separatists' chairman/campaign chief for the 1995 referendum, when they received 49.4 percent of the vote.

Bomb kills 13, injures 39 in Algeria

ALGIERS (Reuters) – A bomb exploded in a town in western Algeria yesterday, killing at least 13 people, *as newspapers report*ed that troops shot dead 33 Moslem rebels this week in a new wave of violence.

Security forces said 39 people were injured, seven of them seriously, when the home-made bomb exploded at 9 a.m. in El Khemis in Ain Defla province, 130 km. southwest of Algiers.

"The hands of terrorism once again target citizens in mass killings.

Preliminary reports put the toll at 13 killed and 39 wounded," state-run Algiers radio said.

Ain Defla was the site of a bomb attack on an Algerian passenger train on August 12 in which seven people were killed and 11 injured.

A nurse at Milyana Hospital said ambulances brought in one dead and 14 wounded, two critically.

"We heard that there are many casualties, but many were sent to Ain Defla Hospital" nearby, she told Reuters by telephone.

Algerian newspapers reported yesterday that at least 33 Moslem rebels were killed when troops attacked their hideouts. The papers said four civilians and two soldiers were killed.

The reports were published a day after President Liamine Zeroual told the country security was "improving steadily."

The pro-government daily *L'Authentique* said troops killed at least 27 members of the radical Armed Islamic Group when they attacked a hideout in Tlemcen province, 440 km. west of Algiers on Monday and Tuesday.

"It was a spectacular operation by the army, helped by [pro-government] militiamen who know the mountainous area. Some wounded terrorists escaped into the forests," the paper said.

Tlemcen, described by Western diplomats and Algerian analysts as a key stronghold for Moslem rebels, has been the scene of several army operations since mid-July. Official media said troops had killed scores of Islamists since then.

The daily *El Khabar* said four Islamist guerrillas, including a woman, were shot dead in a "violent confrontation" on Tuesday with the army in Ouled Moussa, 28 km. east of Algiers. It said two soldiers were also killed.

Algeria has been racked by violence since early 1992 when the authorities canceled a general election in which Islamists had taken a commanding lead. More than 65,000 people have been killed since then, according to Western estimates.

Jordan's new premier to replace economics team

By DOMINIC EVANS

AMMAN (Reuters) – Jordan's new Prime Minister Fayez Tarawnah will announce sweeping cabinet changes including a fresh *team of technocrats to cover* key economic portfolios, officials said yesterday.

Tarawnah was sworn in as prime minister of Jordan yesterday afternoon, replacing Abdul-Salam Majali.

Tarawnah took the oath of office in front of Crown Prince Hassan, standing in for King Hussein who is in the US being treated for cancer. Tarawnah was expected to travel today for talks with the monarch.

"There will be technocrats, a new team," one official said.

Majali was criticized for his government's mishandling of a water crisis, the introduction of a restrictive press law and a downturn in Jordan's economy.

Tarawnah, a US-educated economist, is a former foreign minister and member of the Jordanian team which negotiated the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Analysts said his appointment signalled the king's intention to continue Jordan's policy of engagement with Israel, despite the stalled Middle East peace process.

"The most important thing is that he is an economist," a former minister said.

Majali left office yesterday saying he was proud of his 17-month administration.

"I am satisfied with everything I have done," he told reporters as he left his office.

But his government has come under fire both inside and outside Jordan.

Last year's elections were boycotted by the Islamist-led opposition, who said parliament had become a rubber-stamping assembly. In June, Majali's government said estimates of economic growth for 1996 and 1997 had been wildly optimistic and revised them sharply downwards.

Tarawnah, 49, was made foreign minister last year after serving as Jordan's ambassador to the United States. He was later appointed chief of the royal court, a key position which King Hussein has used in the past to groom future premiers.

Tarawnah's family has a record of service to the Hashemite dynasty. His father Ahmed, who died last week, was a senator who also served as chief of the royal court.

Boston columnist resigns amid signs of fabrication

By LESLIE MILLER

BOSTON (AP) – In the end, columnist Mike Barnicle's saddest story could turn out to be his own.

The Boston Globe's star columnist, who earned legions of admirers over 25 years for his touching tales of heroism and compassion of the city's working class, resigned Wednesday amid suspicions he fabricated a 1995 column.

Barnicle, 54, resigned at the *Globe's* request while still serving a two-month, unpaid suspension for lifting jokes from a best-selling book by comedian George Carlin.

In the 1995 column, Barnicle wrote of a white child and a black child who became friends in Children's Hospital. After the black child died of cancer, Barnicle wrote, the parents of the white child gave the dead child's parents $10,000.

Reader's Digest wanted to reprint the column, according to executive editor William Schulz. But fact-checkers at the magazine determined it "had no basis in fact" after trying to confirm the details through Barnicle, the hospital, and private cancer foundations.

Storin said in a statement that Barnicle said he heard the story from a nurse at another hospital and "could offer no account" this week of having talked to the boys' parents. The column had details such as where the black mother was when she opened the letter containing the check, and what the letter said.

"In light of his failure to follow the most basic reporting requirements, as well as the duplicitous way in which the story was written, it is clear that Mike Barnicle *can no longer write for The Boston Globe,*" Storin said.

Barnicle is the second *Globe* columnist to resign in the last few months. In June, Patricia Smith, who is black, was forced out after admitting she had fabricated characters in four of her columns.

In an interview with cable station MSNBC, Barnicle attributed his downfall in part to increased scrutiny stemming from Smith's resignation.

An evening of study on the subject of *Agunot,*
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The family of
HAROLD RUTTENBERG ז"ל
Pittsburgh, PA
announces with sorrow his passing on August 15, 1998.
Kitty, children and grandchildren
"The memory of the righteous shall be for a blessing."

The consecration of the memorial stone for
ENA CLYNE ז"ל
will take place in Brighton, England
on Tuesday, August 25

Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her husband
Simon and son Jeremy,
her daughter Adrienne and family
on Kibbutz Ramat Rahel
and relatives and friends in Netanya
and throughout Israel

She was loved by all who knew her.

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing
of our beloved mother, grandmother and
great-grandmother

BERTHA (Becky) CHWEIDAN ז"ל

Children: **Roy and Perla**
Grandchildren: **Lee-Anne, Harry, Mandy**
Great-grandchildren: **Adi, Lior, Romi**

The funeral will take place on Sunday, August 23,
at Snikun Havatikim Cemetery, Netanya, at 2 p.m.

Shiva at 18/2 Halperin, Netanya.

With deep sorrow, we mourn the
passing of

EMERY (Israel) SHMUTS ז"ל

The funeral was held yesterday
in the United States.

Julie Grunwald and family
Dr Ivan Sanders and family

صدرا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

The bombing: Because of Monica? Maybe – maybe not

ANALYSIS

By BARRY RUBIN

Much of the drama in US bombing attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan lies in the Clinton administration's dramatic reversal of behavior.

Obviously, many will say that fallout from the Monica Lewinsky affair made the US president eager to show his toughness and distract attention from domestic problems. But in international affairs, it's better to do the right things for the wrong reasons than not at all.

Up to the moment of this attack – a reprisal for the August 7 bombings at the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania – the Clinton administration seemed to be retreating from confronting radical and terrorist forces in the Middle East. But this weakness was also attributed to Monica, with Middle Easterners getting nervous that the president was too paralyzed to act.

So the Monica factor can be argued both ways and, thus, may be far less meaningful than many observers think. The real answer may not be Lewinsky's attractiveness to the president, but Osama bin Laden's attractiveness as a target.

A US effort to confront Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ended in debacle earlier this year as Washington could mobilize neither the willpower nor international support for a tough response. To make matters worse, there were persuasive reports that the Clinton administration was backing away from support for Ambassador Richard Butler and the UN inspectors.

The US was also seen as somewhat reluctant to pursue leads indicating Iranian involvement in bomb attacks against American soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

Bombing Afghanistan, whose government may be the world's most unpopular regime, and a weak Sudan is far easier than tackling Iran or Iraq. Further, a bedeviled Taleban government might well be persuaded to kick out bin Laden, making him subject to capture.

Most important, bin Laden is an individual with a few dozen mercenary henchman, not a country with several hundred thousand soldiers, millions of people, and scores of missiles.

It is unlikely the physical evidence left behind in Kenya could have pointed to bin Laden's involvement so quickly. Presumably, a suspect arrested in Pakistan revealed details of bin Laden's connection.

If Clinton can persuade everyone that he went after the right suspects, his action will soon be judged far more favorably by skeptics and political critics, both at home and abroad.

The writer is senior resident scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies, and is finishing a book on the Palestinian Authority for Harvard University Press.

Lewinsky testifies again

By DEBORAH ZABARENKO



Monica Lewinsky arrives at the federal courthouse in Washington yesterday to testify before independent counsel Kenneth Starr's grand jury. (AP)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – Monica Lewinsky, the woman at the heart of the White House sex scandal, yesterday returned for a second time to the grand jury investigating possible obstruction of justice by President Bill Clinton.

Clinton himself, closeted on Martha's Vineyard with his wife and daughter, broke dramatically into his vacation to announce that the US had launched military strikes at "terrorist-related" bases in Afghanistan and Sudan. The bases are believed to have been behind this month's bombings of US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, he told a hastily-called news conference before cutting short his vacation to return to Washington.

Clinton's surprise announcement came amid national preoccupation with his affair with Lewinsky, which he admitted in a nationally televised address on Monday.

There were reports that a sample of his DNA – possible physical evidence of a sexual affair with the 25-year-old former White House intern – had been turned over to independent counsel Kenneth Starr's prosecutors.

Lewinsky, who has previously testified that she and Clinton engaged in various sex acts, arrived at the federal courthouse where the grand jury sits shortly before 9 a.m. She made no comment to reporters and did not respond to a shouted question about whether Clinton owed her an apology.

Lewinsky was hurt that Clinton had discounted the nature of their relationship in his reported grand jury testimony, an associate of Lewinsky's said. Lewinsky maintained that the 18-month affair was emotional as well as sexual.

Starr and his team were expected to ask Lewinsky about any inconsistencies between her version of events and those detailed by Clinton in his testimony.

Any wide divergence between the two accounts could be the basis for perjury charges against Clinton, based on his grand jury testimony.

Prosecutors could also inquire about gifts Lewinsky said the president gave her, including a T-shirt and books, that she returned to Clinton's personal secretary Betty Currie after Lewinsky had been subpoenaed to testify in the Paula Jones case.

Investigators could also be interested in a boldly patterned tie Lewinsky gave Clinton, which he wore on August 6, her first day before the grand jury. A Lewinsky associate said the tie represented a more emotional relationship than Clinton has admitted.

Another piece of material evidence is a dark blue dress provided by Lewinsky that has been analyzed for traces of semen or other genetic material that could confirm a sexual relationship with Clinton.

A report in yesterday's *New York Times* said Starr's team had demanded a presidential DNA sample and CNN television said the sample had been received.

White House spokesman Jim Kennedy declined comment, saying, "On Monday night the president acknowledged an improper relationship and apologized for that. He also said it's time to reclaim his privacy and we're going to respect that, and not comment on every leak that comes out of this investigation."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich urged the media to turn their attention to other issues and declined to comment on the matter himself in an address in Atlanta.

"The editors and publishers and producers of this country ought to put themselves on a diet to not spend more than 20 percent of their time on the scandal," he said.

A new ABC News poll showed Clinton's favorability rating has dropped 15 points over the last five weeks, while his job approval rating held steady at 60 percent, and 61% of respondents said he should not resign.

Only 39% of respondents had a favorable impression of Clinton when asked late Wednesday. That was down from 54% on July 12. The poll had an error margin of ±4.5 percentage points.

America's enemy: A determined, wealthy, Saudi dissident

By DONNA BRYSON



Osama bin Laden (AP)

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) – It wasn't unusual to find wealthy Saudis on the periphery of the Afghan struggle against the Soviet Union. They'd arrive in Afghan refugee camps, open briefcases full of cash, and distribute dollars to war widows and wounded veterans.

Osama bin Laden was unusual. The son of a Saudi construction magnate went into the rugged Afghan mountains to fight, gaining a reputation for bravery and determination.

He used his millions to buy bulldozers to gouge guerrilla trails in the heart of Afghanistan, and to bring in, by his count, thousands of Egyptians, Lebanes, Turks and others to join their Afghan Moslem brothers in the struggle against an ideology that spurned religion.

Nine years after the Soviets retreated from Afghanistan, terrorism experts say bin Laden is using his millions to fund attacks against the US like, perhaps, the August 7 bombings of US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that killed 257 people.

Veterans of the pan-Moslem army bin Laden raised to fight the Soviets remain loyal to the tall, robed figure some call a hero.

The US State Department calls him "one of the most significant sponsors of Islamic extremist activities in the world today."

Throughout the 1980s, the US and bin Laden were on the same side against the now-collapsed Soviet state. Bin Laden made no secret that he saw secular, powerful Washington as much an infidel as Moscow. But his first priority was Moscow, which invaded Afghanistan to prop up a communist government in December 1979.

In a series of fatwas, or religious edicts, faxed to the outside world from his hideout in Afghanistan, bin Laden has laid out his case against the US: its soldiers protecting oil in his homeland are desecrating Moslem holy sites with their very presence; its power has emasculated Arab countries, turning them into client states; its friend is Israel.

"We – with God's help – call on every Moslem who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it," read a February fatwa.

Iraq rejects Butler's request to allow resumption of arms inspections

BAGHDAD (AP) – Iraq yesterday turned down a request by chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler to resume cooperation with his teams, saying the arms monitors are taking orders from Washington.

Butler sent a letter to Baghdad on Wednesday asking Iraq to allow the resumption of weapons inspections, which were suspended by the Iraqis on August 5.

Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, said Iraq would not allow the resumption of inspections by the UN Special Commission as long as its actions are dictated by the US.

"Butler and some elements in the Special Commission are not international employees, but serve the American policies to maintain the sanctions on Iraq by following its orders," Aziz said in a statement carried by the official Iraqi News Agency.

"The decision is final and will not be changed until the Security Council seriously, responsibly and fairly looks into Iraq's demands without American pressures."

He accused Butler of not wanting to tell the council and the world the Special Commission has "completed its task in the field of disarmament." The UN commission must certify Iraq has eliminated all its weapons of mass destruction before punishing sanctions can be lifted.

Butler cut short a visit to Baghdad earlier this month after talks broke down with Aziz, who demanded a clean bill of health on Baghdad's weapons programs.

Butler's letter to Aziz came after the Security Council gave him only general backing earlier this week and not the clear instructions he had sought in the face of Baghdad's decision.

Ulster bomb injured toll revised to 330

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

BELFAST (AP) – Medical officials yesterday raised the number of people injured in Northern Ireland's worst terrorist attack to more than 330, as the shattered town of Omagh buried the final eight victims.

Twenty-eight people died in Saturday's car bomb blast in the religiously mixed town 70 miles west of Belfast, the deadliest attack in the three decades of Northern Ireland's conflict. The Irish Republican Army dissident gang responsible, the Real IRA, is facing a security crackdown on both sides of the Irish border.

Police revealed today that two men were seen getting out of the stolen car that carried the bomb and walking away 40 minutes before the device went off on bustling Market Street. No other details were released.

Meanwhile, reports emerged that the political activist most closely identified with the faction, Bernadette Sands-McKevitt, had her US visa application refused last week after she visited the US Embassy in Dublin.

Sands-McKevitt, sister of the late IRA hunger-strike leader Bobby Sands and common-law wife of the Real IRA's reputed commander, met members of Congress during an American lobbying trip to oppose April's peace deal that allows Protestants and Catholics to share power in Northern Ireland.

She denies that her legal pressure group, called the 32 County Sovereignty Committee, supports the Real IRA. But she had hoped to travel to New York and Washington again to criticize the peace accord. She claims the deal will ensure continued violence because it did not bring about the end of Northern Ireland as a Protestant-majority state linked with Britain.

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Muddled messages

Experts and the general public can be forgiven for scratching their heads, wondering what exactly is Israel's policy with respect to possible negotiations with Syria, following the conflicting signals given off this week.

Long dormant, the issues of the Golan Heights and talks with Syria suddenly leaped to the front pages, with the publication earlier this week of an interview with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in *Focus*, a German weekly.

Mordechai was quoted as saying that the depth of Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights will depend on the depth of peace Syria offers – a formula taken straight from the policy positions of the former government, and an anathema to The Third Way, a member of the current governing coalition.

Mordechai's interview sparked off a small storm at the cabinet's weekly meeting, forcing the defense minister to go on the defensive. He claimed that he was misquoted and misrepresented; that what he had really meant was that the depth of peace depends on the depth of security. It was difficult, however, not to wonder whether perhaps there was an attempt here to send Damascus a signal of Israeli readiness to adopt some flexibility in an effort to re-spark interest in the stalled Syrian track.

Then, on Wednesday, the Ministerial Committee on the Development of the Galilee and Negev, headed by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, approved construction in four communities on the Golan Heights.

The committee, a body containing representatives from the Environment, Science, Interior, Finance and Defense ministries, gave the go-ahead to build 2,500 vacation units and 2,300 homes on the Golan. The message seemed to be one of continued Israeli insistence on Golan settlement, to forestall any talk of future withdrawal on the Heights.

The impression that the government knows full well how such a decision is likely to be interpreted in Damascus was only strengthened by the revelation that Netanyahu had asked that the construction plan not be raised at an earlier committee meeting, which coincided with a visit to France by Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Confusing signals, indeed.

Generations of Israelis have been raised to believe that control of the Golan Heights is a vital part of Israel's strategic security. Foreign visitors are often brought to the Heights' western slope to see for themselves how easy it is to strike at the Galilee settlements spread out in the plains and valleys just below. The antennae-bristling top of Mt. Hermon has been described as the nation's "eyes and ears," peering far out electronically to protect against any strategic threat from the east.

True to Zionist orthodoxy, which equates settlements with defense, it was the Labor Party that initiated the Golan settlement movement.

Nevertheless, the Labor-led government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made a serious effort to attain a peace agreement with Syria that would have included withdrawal from at least a sizable part of the Golan Heights – by some accounts, almost to the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

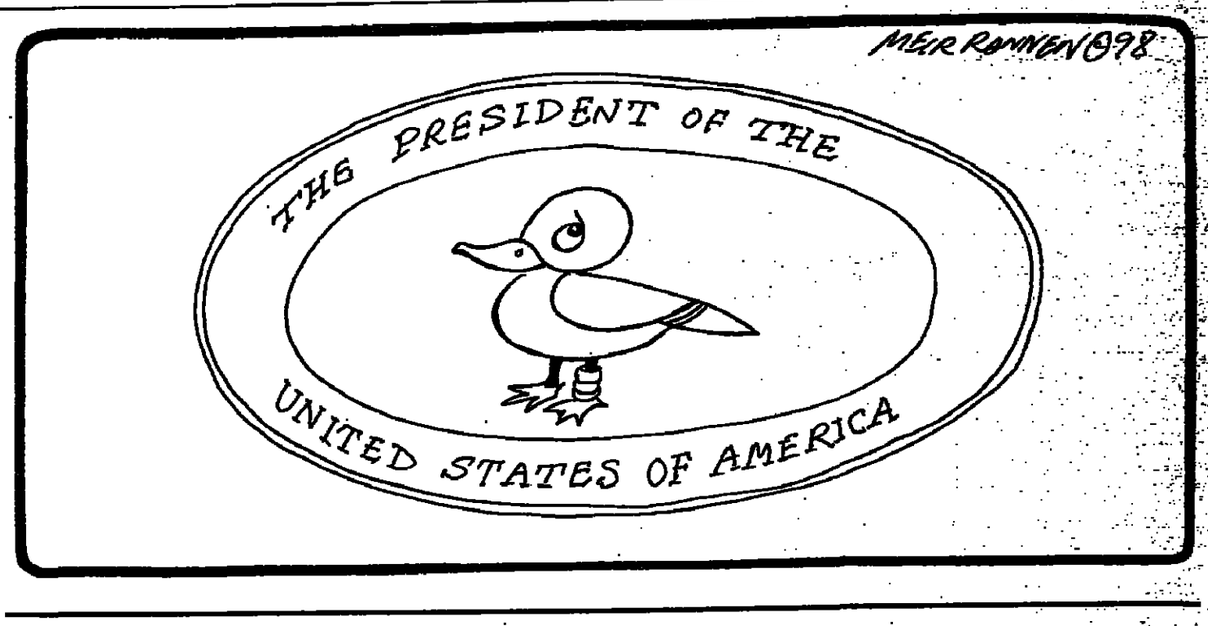
Five years ago, during the summer of 1993, Rabin was apparently torn between making dramatic moves on the Palestinian or the Syrian tracks, and eventually decided to pursue the Oslo Accords. Later, Israeli and Syrian negotiators racked up numerous hours of negotiation time in Wye Plantation, Virginia, but could not even agree on a declaration of principles prior to the 1996 elections that brought the Likud back into power.

The immediate result of the establishment of Netanyahu's government was an escalation of tensions along the Syrian border that reportedly went as far as placing certain Syrian and Israeli military units on high alert. Since then there have been no visible signs of any negotiations between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Many things can be said about Assad's brutal, dictatorial and economically fossilized regime. But the Syrian president is anything but capricious. Indeed, there are few national leaders in the world who are reputedly as cold and calculating as Assad, or as adept at reading power balances and probing out the weaknesses of adversaries. The continual, Syrian-backed bloodletting in Lebanon is but one aspect of his strategy of pressuring Israel.

Some observers have noted that the new Golan construction is slated for the southern part of the Heights, leaving the northern end open for a possible partial withdrawal in the context of a peace agreement. It also remains to be seen to whether the bulldozers will actually start work on the Golan, or whether the decision to expand Golan settlement is intended as a pressure tactic to persuade Assad to come to the bargaining table.

But the juxtaposition of Mordechai's statements and the ministerial committee's decision gives an appearance of a government whose strategic thinking is muddled. Dealing with Syria requires a firm and clear Israeli message of what this government's intentions are. Mixed messages, history shows, are far too easily misinterpreted.



Netanyahu's dilemma

RUBY RIVLIN

When the Hebron Agreement was presented to the Knesset for approval, I voted against it. If Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who was brought up to follow Ze'ev Jabotinsky's ideology, submits the wretched redeployment to Knesset approval, I will vote against that too.

I will vote against any redeployment, regardless of whether it is 13 percent, 9%, or even 2%. This is the way I was educated and my homeland is not convertible currency.

However, the unfortunate redeployment will undoubtedly take place, and the Palestinian state may be born in less than a year, surrounded by none other than Binyamin Netanyahu and the right-wing/national camp, helpless and heartbroken beside the crib. How ironic. How cruel.

This is no time to grin bitterly at the ironies of the past or to bemoan Netanyahu's fate. We must face this reality. We must attempt to reach May 1999 and the end of the interim stage with minimum injuries.

This is what lies behind the idea of the "nature reserves" (protected areas) and Area D, recently proposed to the Palestinians and the Americans.

This is also what lies behind the ridiculous notion of "finding" the 3% shortfall for the redeployment in the Judean Desert, of all places.

One of the basic tenets of the Oslo Accords, which was to be the foundation for the interim agreement and which provided the sole basis for continued public support of the Oslo process, was that we would be freed from the burden of ruling another people.

This is why Israel surrendered the Gaza Strip, and why the cities in Judea and Samaria were transferred so hastily to the Palestinian Authority, whereas most of the territory remained with Israel in preparation for the negotiations on the permanent settlement.

The late Yitzhak Rabin had intended to enter the permanent status negotiations while he still retained at least 50% of the land, but no more than 5% of the Palestinian population.

Faithful to this fundamental principle, Netanyahu too attempted to offer the Palestinians "quality," densely populated areas and contiguous Palestinian territory – a kind of Middle Eastern Andorra – in return for fewer percentage points.

We all know what happened to this suggestion. The Palestinians, backed by the Americans, refused to consider anything less than 13%.

Giving up territory in the Judean Desert will not save isolated settlements

Thus the concept of Area D was born, to be controlled by the Palestinians, but declared "protected areas" with any physical change being frozen until a permanent settlement is reached.

The idea is that while 10% of the West Bank will be transferred to full Palestinian control, which in itself creates a contiguous Palestinian area. Jewish settlements – which in any event will become Israeli enclaves – will become a form of separation zone, separating Area A from the settlements.

Palestinian construction of the kind which endangers the traffic routes for Israelis in Gush Katif or on the outskirts of Ramallah will be forbidden in these areas, but they will be under Palestinian control. Similarly, the physical expansion of those settlements will also be restricted.

The maximum future boundary of, for instance, Yitzhar, located in the heart of an area which is supposed to be transferred to the Palestinians to create territorial continuity in the Nablus region, and which is situated atop a hill surrounded by Palestinian villages – all of which are already in Area B – will be determined during the second redeployment.

This allows the cake to be eaten yet remain whole, winking at both Palestinians and Israelis. No settlements will be uprooted, and in this way Netanyahu will be able to present the move as a major achievement; but it will be quite clear to the Palestinians that a settlement which is surrounded by Palestinian territory will not last long.

THE SETTLERS' leaders naturally understood the significance of this proposal. If the idea is accepted, Israel will essentially be acknowledging which settlements will become bargaining chips in the negotiations on the permanent settlement.

Independently organized armed patrols on disputed territory, like that on which Harel Bin-Nun and Shlomo Liebman were murdered, seizing so-called government land to expand settlements, and other semi-legitimate expansion initiatives will all become a thing of the past in those settlements which will become enclaves surrounded by Area D.

Anyone who attempts to effect a fait accompli outside the Israeli enclave will be likely to encounter an armed Palestinian patrol rather than a mere demonstration by the local villagers.

In their distress after finally sobering up from the illusion of being able to perform a single-digit redeployment, they hastily attempted to transfer the missing 3% to the Judean Desert, which is sparsely settled.

This has exposed the full force of the cruel dilemma facing Netanyahu and the entire national camp: the contradiction between the iron rule that not even one settlement be vacated, certainly not in the interim agreement (and some would add not even in the permanent settlement), and the realization that public support for the essence of the Oslo Accords is founded on the desire to be rid of the Palestinians.

But the latter is contingent on the belief (considerably encouraged by the Rabin government) that it would be possible to reach agreement on a permanent settlement without withdrawing to the pre-1967 borders. Handing over parts of the Judean Desert, beyond its strategic impact, will constitute a precedent which may lead us to reposition along those very boundaries.

The situation is indeed one of "damned if you do and damned if you don't." However, of these two terrible choices, handing over unsettled areas is definitely worse. It will lead us back to the 1967 borders and strip Israel of its assets. If territory in the Judean Desert is given up, then why not the southern Hebron Hills? Why not the entire Judean Desert? Why not the Jordan Valley? How will the Israeli government, any government, be able to sit down to discuss the permanent settlement if it is clear that the entire area is for sale?

There are those who have been whispering, secretly, that handing over unsettled areas (perhaps in the third redeployment), unlike the densely populated regions, may turn out to be revocable, in the event of an explosion with the Palestinians. However, fostering this illusion, besides being dangerous and irresponsible, will contribute nothing to the well-being of the isolated settlements, whose fate in the long run has already been determined.

Will those isolated settlements really be saved by giving up the Judean Desert? In any event, they will become enclaves deep inside Palestinian territory, even if there is a 10% redeployment only. If we must carry out the redeployment – and it seems to be right around the corner – nothing will help those settlements, not even Israel's insistence on the principle of not vacating settlements.

The writer is a Likud MK.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DENGUE FEVER

Sir–, The Royal Thai Embassy in Israel would like to make a few clarifications regarding dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever (August 13).

As mentioned in the *Post*, this disease is caused by the dengue virus, which is contracted from the bite of the aedes mosquito, endemic to tropical and subtropical regions worldwide, namely in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Because the disease manifests itself in two different ways, it is known as both dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue fever. Local inhabitants afflicted with the dengue infection, mostly children, often experience fever occupied with bleeding in the skin and other organs, hence the name dengue hemorrhagic fever, which can sometimes be fatal .

However, the disease affects non-indigenous populations differently: Travelers infected with dengue virus usually suffer from fever, skin rash, severe headache (without cough or cold) and muscle pains, but these symptoms – known as dengue fever – are usually not fatal.

The dengue virus cannot be transmitted from one person to another (unlike malaria, for example), rather it can only be contracted from the aedes mosquito. Thus, travelers are advised to take preventive measures while visiting Thailand, especially in the rainy season (approximately May to September), when this particular mosquito is highly prevalent.

As the aedes mosquito bites in the daytime, travelers should always use mosquito repellent, even during the day. Individuals should avoid travelling in dense forest and marsh areas, where the mosquitos are in abundance.

If the above-mentioned symptoms should occur and the dengue infection is suspected, one should seek immediate medical attention to establish the cause of the illness. Information pamphlets containing details about dengue fever can be obtained at the Bangkok airport.

The Royal Thai Embassy would like to point out to Israelis, among which some 50,000 per year visit this Southeast Asian country, that Thailand has effectively controlled this regions's endemic diseases, and that the fatality rate is minimal (less than 0.2%). We sincerely hope that your article will not affect Israelis' decision to travel to Thailand.

ROYAL THAI EMBASSY
Tel Aviv.

Judy Siegel comments:

The article stated that the Haifa doctor warned against visiting a single island in Thailand where the dangerous mosquitoes are found in large numbers: he did not advise against going to Thailand at all. The article also explains that the disease is transmitted only when someone is bitten by an infected mosquito, and not by direct contact among people.

All the numerous Internet sites devoted to dengue fever specifically mention parts of Thailand as being at risk for the viral disease.

NARROW-MINDED LEFTISTS

Sir, – Naomi Chazan's comment that "...only overwhelming, life-threatening concerns justify demolition of illegally built Arab houses" (August 7, 1998) is the typical boring rhetoric used by narrow-minded leftists.

Here in England, and probably in most other Western countries, demolition of houses is done quite often, based on decisions taken by a few people working in the hundreds of Councils all over the country, if houses are built illegally, or on other lands by mistake, or rebuilt without complying with building regulations, or even built to standards higher than what the council would think is proper. None of these reasons are life threatening or overwhelming.

M. NEGAR
London.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On August 21, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported on the festive opening of the 18th Zionist Congress in Prague with an opening address made by Dr. Nahum Sokolow, President of the Zionist Organization. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who was scheduled to speak on the German situation, announced that he would not be present during the Congress.

25 years ago: On August 21, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported from Moscow that the sponsors of the World University Games held there agreed to have observers at the rest of Israel's matches following incidents of Russian harassment of the Israeli basketball team. A Soviet Jew was sentenced to 15 days in jail after trying to see the Israelis playing basketball despite the fact that he held a valid ticket.

Alexander Zvielli

A friend in need

MOSHE ZAK

A general was once hauled before David Ben-Gurion, then minister of defense, who rebuked him for his improper behavior with women. The shocked general listened in silence to Ben-Gurion's advice to put an immediate end to his relationship with the woman whose husband had complained about him, and then said: "I also have the right to a private life."

B-G then related a story: Gen. George Marshall, who was Dwight Eisenhower's commander, called in his subordinate and demanded that he end his affair with his driver and return to his lawful wife. Eisenhower responded with the comment: "But that's my private life."

Marshall stood up and reprimanded him: "The private life of a four-star general is the interest of the United States."

This week, the same dilemma came to the fore more vehemently in Washington, when President Bill Clinton, in his public confession to the American people, said: "Even presidents have the right to a private life."

It's hard to disagree with this statement. Nevertheless, this week we witnessed an intensification of Marshall's comments. Not only is the general's private life the interest of the US, the president's private life has been broadcast to the entire world.

The private lives of world leaders, like their illnesses, attract global attention and sometimes global concern. All the more so when referring to the leader of a superpower. When there's a draft in the White House, the whole world sneezes.

It would be an exaggeration to say that the Lewinsky Affair has had a negative impact on the status of the US as the power responsible for world order. Even if Clinton has suffered days of anxiety and sleepless nights, even if thousands around the world have joked about his sexual appetite, this has not undermined his political status around the world or among the American public, which continues to support him and wants him to serve out his term of office. The explosions at the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam have done more harm to US prestige around the world than the investigation into Monica's dress.

The people of Israel must reward Clinton for his friendship, for friendship is tested in times of distress

American investigators have succeeded in tracing the terrorists who planned and carried out the terrible bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. But in the Arab and Moslem world, from which the vile terrorists came, everything is measured according to the degree of success in frustrating such attacks, not the degree of success in identifying the perpetrators. This is particularly true with suicide bombers, willing from the outset to sacrifice their lives.

The Arab terrorist organizations were extremely impressed when Israel apprehended two German terrorists, acting on behalf of the Palestinian Wadia Hadad, who were caught red-handed aiming their anti-tank missiles at an El Al plane in Nairobi. The terrorists have not repeated this trick since. The fact that a terrorist organization managed to target two American embassies simultaneously, causing a large number of casualties, has affected US prestige more than any internal argument as to whether the president is being truthful.

IT IS rather unpleasant when the president of the US is forced to admit publicly that he was untruthful. It casts a shadow over his integrity. This, however, is not the reason for the decrease in US status in the world.

China and Britain will not change their positive attitude to Clinton because of his testimony. Nor will Russia and Germany, troubled by their own problems, settle their scores with him. Only Iraq and the Palestinians will attempt to exploit Clinton's momentary embarrassment to retaliate for his political decisions.

Hanan Ashrawi has already attacked Clinton, saying that his problems and personal difficulties are the reason that he is incapable of pressuring Israel on the second redeployment. This claim is unfounded, even if it is based on the opinion of certain Israelis who for months have been prophesying that the Americans will begin pressuring Israel any moment now. That these prophecies have not been realized, is unrelated to Clinton's testimony before the grand jury.

The fact is that Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright promised the Jewish organizations not to bring pressure to bear on Israel. And the fact is that instead of pressure, the US urged both Israel and the Palestinians to open a direct dialog.

Bill Clinton is not Richard Nixon. In his memoirs, Henry Kissinger revealed that on the eve of his impeachment, Nixon issued several presidential orders to a friend to harm Israel, as retaliation for the considerable involvement of American Jews in the efforts to impeach him.

Clinton is not about to be impeached, and even if this danger was hovering over him, he would not be looking for ways of taking his revenge on the Jews by punishing Israel. Clinton is a true friend of Israel. His support for Israel is not conditional, but basic. He may have advisers who from time to time attempt to direct him toward putting pressure on Israel, but he has not changed his supportive relationship with Israel, the humane roots of which he once revealed in a speech in the Knesset, at the bequest of the minister in his home town.

Even when disagreements arise between Israel and the administration concerning the negotiations with the Palestinians, he does not veer from his firm support. He is not afraid of being isolated in votes in the UN, nor is he afraid of making it clear to the members of the Security Council that the US will not hesitate to veto resolutions which may endanger Israel's security.

The people of Israel must reward Clinton for his friendship, for friendship is not a one-way street. Friendship is tested in times of distress.

In Israel's hour of need, following the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Clinton made sure that heads of state from all over the world attended the funeral with him. And the words he said at the funeral, "Shalom friend" mesmerized the entire nation. Those words still reverberate in our ears.

Clinton will not resign and he will not abandon us, but in his hour of need, we should say to him: "Shalom friend. Cheer up."

هكذا من الاصل

Change the policy; don't shoot the messenger

DAVID SAPERSTEIN

To view the battle over Reform and Conservative Jewish rights as merely a bitter internecine Jewish struggle is to miss its far-reaching implications for long-term US support for Israel. Recent stirrings of discontent over this issue on Capitol Hill, particularly from some of Israel's staunchest supporters, and first time criticism by the US Department of State on human rights grounds have properly raised alarm in Jerusalem.

But that alarm has been muted by a campaign emanating from the haredi community suggesting that Israel's supporters in the US are not expressing genuine concerns. Rather, it is alleged, they are the hapless victims of a manipulative lobbying campaign by Reform and Conservative Jewish leaders to use the lever of US support for Israel to apply pressure on the Israeli government to change the existing discriminatory policy against Reform and Conservative Jews.

As the longest serving lobbyist for the American Jewish community in Washington and the representative of the Reform Movement to the federal government, I can state categorically that this conclusion is dead wrong – both factually and politically. And for Israel's leaders to try to wrench the facts to fit such an erroneous theory will result in policies that will jeopardize support for Israel in Congress and the American public.

Factually, there is not now, nor has there ever been such a campaign. Nonetheless, persistent rumors about it continue to be circulated by the haredi community, enhanced by a single comment made by a Reform official who is not connected with our Washington work. He quickly corrected the record. Reporters and community leaders who were concerned more about facts than ideology ceased spreading the rumors. As AIPAC, the respected leader of the pro-Israel lobby in the US, has repeatedly concluded: "Nothing we have heard on the Hill substantiates such rumors."

But a denial might lend credence to the central implication of the "accusation" – that dong so would be wrong. This suggestion, made by opponents of religious pluralism in Israel, misconstrues American politics.

In America, senators and representatives are often called on by their constituents to intervene on their behalf in matters that affect them, domestic and international, and to use their influence to protect the interests and values of American citizens.

And not surprisingly, senators and congressmen have indeed spoken our on this issue. Remember: Virtually every Jewish member of Congress who has served during my quarter-century tenure (save two I can think of) is a Reform or Conservative Jew. At their own initiative, many have spoken to

When Americans see Israeli leaders blithely sacrificing religious freedom to accommodate fundamentalist political parties, it is alienating to even Israel's best friends in Congress and the media

me to make it clear that they were utilizing their close connections with Israeli leaders to express their personal heart-felt pain that the Israeli government refuses to sanction the legitimacy of their stream of Judaism and their concern about the alienation the current policy causes among the media and the public in their states and communities. They needed no prodding from their constituents or from us to follow the dictates of their conscience.

SO TOO, it took no urging form the State Department to call the policy what it is: Denial, for religious reasons, to hundreds of thousands of the right to marry, to be divorced, to be buried in dignity, clearly violates internationally established human rights norms.

The problem is not with the Reform or Conservative movements fighting for their rights, it is with a policy that seriously tarnishes and erodes Israel's democratic image – with political and personal consequences. Despite the impression of all too many Israelis – including Israeli leaders – whatever contribution the 3.5 percent Jewish vote or 10 percent Jewish political giving in national elections makes – the true foundation of US public and political support is that members of Congress and the public believe in an Israel that shares America's values, most particularly a commitment to the concept of fundamental human rights.

When Israel engages in policies that violate those rights, when Americans see Israeli leaders blithely sacrificing religious freedom to accommodate fundamentalist political parties, it is alienating and bewildering to even Israel's best friends in Congress and the media.

Further, for the Israeli government to convey to over 90 percent of a senator's Jewish friends and constituents that their Judaism is not legitimate and that their fellow Jews in Israel will not have full rights, is irreconcilable with those values of religious tolerance, pluralism, liberty, and equality so cherished by Americans. The result, to use Jonathan Rosenblum's words in the *Post* is: "The principal claim to American support- common democratic values- is destroyed."

Rather than urging a change in a discriminatory policy that alienates Americans and so many Jews in America and Israel, some Israeli leaders would say: "Shame on the Reform Movement, Congress, the State Department, and the media. Talking about the problem hurts American support for Israel." So long as these leaders continue to shoot the messengers, Israel will be distracted from making the hard decisions that religious freedom and pluralism demand and the nation's interests so urgently require.

The writer, a rabbi and law professor who serves as the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, is currently in Israel on sabbatical.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

Is leadership dead?

At the height of World War II, they say, a momentarily delirious Franklin Roosevelt phoned Joseph Stalin and said: "Joe? It's Frank; Giants three, Dodgers nothing."

Even if true, which this story doubtfully is, Joe and Frank were still very much opposites in terms of background, inclinations, and, shall we say, hobbies, while also figuring prominently among history's most effective leaders; which is a lot more than can be said of their famously flamboyant, life-loving, and self-destructive heirs – Bill and Boris.

Strange, but while a drooling human race relived Bill's advances at his poor man's Bathsheba and at the same time cheer-led a self-styled Nathan as he maneuvered the suddenly disempowered ruler to his cathartic confession – the real story might have been Boris.

Clinton's travails – human, clumsy, and tragic though they may be – are, at the end of the day, little more than a soap opera. Boris's, by contrast, involve not just the dwindling fortunes but also the very lives of 100 million Russians and the fate of their country, incidentally the world's largest.

Clinton's presidency, whether or not he survives the ordeal he has concocted for himself, does not stand to seriously dent America's greatness. If anything, the stupidity he has displayed throughout this affair should serve as a reminder that the impressive era of good feeling over which he ostensibly presided was actually not his doing.

Clinton did not undo the Cold War nor did he end the Bush-era recession. Rather, the former was Mikhail Gorbachev's accomplishment and the latter, having been largely cyclical, was adequately dealt with by a prudent Federal Reserve that ran a prudent monetary policy, and a savvy business sector that shrewdly mobilized the developed world's most flexible labor market.

The seeds of the American economy's remarkable recovery were sown well before Clinton's rise to power, when such formerly ailing giants as IBM, Citibank, and General Motors launched massive layoffs, thus increasing labor supplies. This, in turn, resulted in reduced wages and – in the absence of West European-style employer-hostile labor laws – increased the incentive to hire. That, rather than some Clinton trick, is what now makes America's the world's most highly employed economy.

Yes, during the Clinton years inflation remained minimal, unemployment fell to record lows, the deficit was reined in, and growth rates were healthy and steady, with well more than 10 million newly-created jobs, most of them paying more than the average wage.

Still, Clinton's role in all this was to step aside – by trimming federal spending – rather than step in. In other words, his economic success reflects a de facto embrace of Republican tenets. The one Democratic flag he once waved energetically – health-care reform – he ultimately abandoned after failing to significantly affect what is probably America's most notorious black hole of social deformity.

The overall record is indeed impressive, but there is little reason to assume that another president, particularly a Republican one, would have fared differently in Clinton's place.

In short, circumstances never demanded that Clinton display true leadership, involving the kind of strategic vision, tactical instincts, and personal charisma which were indispensable in the testing times of, say, Lincoln or Roosevelt.

The lack of serious military challenges abroad and economic ones at home left America's social arena the only one wide open for bold transformation. But, perhaps because that part of their lives did not generate major explosions so far this decade, most Americans seemed happy muddling through with more of the same.

EVIDENTLY, none of this can be said of Russia, which sure did – and does and will – need monumental leadership to shift from its post-communist state of mind to a modern mind of state.

Yeltsin, who initially impressed the world as a free-thinking, pluralistic, and pro-market alternative to the legacies of Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, and Joe Stalin, has proved an abysmal failure in an area where they all excelled: impact.

His drinking, babbling, and general erraticism aside, the main problem with Yeltsin is that after more than half a decade in office, his Russia emerges as a moral, social, and governmental moonscape largely devoid of his imprint.

With lawlessness menacing millions, from anonymous pedestrians and small-time store owners to brave journalists and big-time tycoons; with taxes either bribed out, abused, or just left uncollected, while millions of public-sector workers remain unpaid for months; with foreign debt mounting to a staggering $140 billion and default now looming ominously; and with foreign policy haphazardly abandoned to the devices of an anachronistic foreign minister who yearns for Cold War rivalries – one must grimly conclude that Russia is de-facto leaderless.

Had Yeltsin effectively scrutinized and shrewdly galvanized the many free-lance policy makers who are festering around him, he might have ordered Yevgeni Primakov to cease to pander to Saddam Hussein.

Considering that Moscow remains addicted – like a Third World country – to raw material exports, the last thing it needs is a decline in oil prices. Yet under Primakov's leadership, it has actively helped depreciate oil by volunteering to conduct the cacophonous orchestra that seeks to restore Iraq's oil exports, and thus dramatically increase supplies in an already glutted global energy market.

IT FOLLOWS that the common denominator between Bill's and Boris's situations is that each has seen his country's affairs develop – the former positively, the latter negatively – regardless rather than because of his actions.

As an *Economist* survey suggested last year, the impact of government is fast declining in the face of increasingly omnipotent financial markets and high technologies.

Indeed, in a world increasingly dominated by bottom-line CEOs, high-flying corporate analysts, software engineers with spike-and-jell hairdos, behind-the-scenes spin doctors and upfront satellites, cell phones and web-sites, the role of political leadership begs to be redefined.

And so, the intriguing question that should dominate this *fin de siecle*'s political discourse is not whether Clinton, Yeltsin, Chirac, Kohl, Hashimoto, or, for that matter, Netanyahu are the cause of our era's leadership crisis, but its result. Surely, this doesn't give license to deceive spouses, abuse interns or lie to the world; but it does mean that such crimes and misdemeanors matter much less than some tend to assume.

Constitutional crises?

MARK A. HELLER

Someone surfing the Internet came upon a copy of the Fatah constitution and found that the organization is still formally committed to its original objective – the destruction of Israel. This discovery is presumably of some importance, if only because Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is also still chairman of Fatah.

Of course, one doesn't need the Fatah constitution to demonstrate that Arafat talks out of both sides of his mouth on the issue of the peace process.

Almost immediately after signing the Declaration of Principles and preaching the virtues of the "peace of the brave," he was off to South Africa preaching the virtues of jihad.

In any case, the discovery provided MK Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, with yet another reason to object to any further implementation of the interim agreement.

Like many others with a prurient interest in incriminating documents, I went to look for the item in question. Unfortunately, I could not access the Web site address listed in *The Post* so I too had to go surfing.

Although I couldn't find the document on the PA's home page, on any of the links to other Palestinian sites, or through any of the major search engines, I assume that it is there, somewhere. Otherwise, the secretary-general of Fatah in the West Bank would have simply denied its existence, rather than bothering to explain that it was a 30-year old document with no operational meaning and that it was posted by a Fatah rejectionist acting on his own.

In any case, during the course of my futile search, I came across lots of other related sites. One of these belongs to the Likud. (For those who want access, it is: www.likud.org.il).

The site includes a link to the Likud constitution, and paragraph (b) of the first chapter on "Objectives," reads: "preserving the Jewish people's eternal and unassailable right to the Land of Israel, continuing to settle and develop all parts of the Land of Israel, and applying the State's sovereignty to them." This, too, is presumably important, if only because Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is also the chairman of the Likud.

The symmetry here is more apparent than real. After all, Netanyahu never even pretended that he approved of the Oslo process. On the contrary, he criticized it as fundamentally flawed from the minute the DOP was signed, and this critical position was one of the factors contributing to his election in 1996, more than two years after Arafat began his consistently inconsistent rhetoric and behavior.

More importantly, Netanyahu has never justified, even indirectly, the use of violence in pursuit of his movement's declared objectives.

Furthermore, the contributions of the two parties to the process are not equal: Israel's consist mainly of concrete, real-time actions (concessions of territory and authority, release of prisoners, etc.); the Palestinians are basically called upon to make abstract promises of future good behavior.

The textual contradictions between Oslo and the Fatah and Likud constitutions are significant because they faithfully reflect both sides' ambivalence toward the peace process



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BUT if there is no symmetry, there is some parallel. Netanyahu's government is formally (if unenthusiastically) committed to the Oslo Accords, and it is therefore legitimate to ask whether the failure of Netanyahu's movement to amend its constitution does not somehow betray a lack of seriousness and sincerity in his government's commitment. After all, only the most tortuous legalistic casuistry could "prove" that the determination to apply Israeli sovereignty to all parts of the Land of Israel is compatible with the past and future Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank and the establishment of Palestinian self-rule required by the DOP and the interim agreement.

In fact, only the rejectionists on both sides are unequivocal in their attitudes to the peace process. Among those who support the process, there is considerable ambivalence: for Palestinians, because of the great ideological "compromise" they have made and the fear that the result will still fall far short of even their minimum expectations; for Israelis, because of the price they have to pay and the fear that, whatever that price may be, it will still not produce "real peace."

It is therefore disingenuous to argue that the constitutions are old and have no effect on actual policy decisions. The textual contradictions between Oslo and the Fatah and Likud constitutions are significant because they faithfully reflect this ambivalence.

But if those contradictions are used as a pretext to freeze the process and destroy any remaining hope that they will ultimately be overwhelmed by a different kind of Israeli-Palestinian relationship, then the constitutions will prevail over Oslo. Only the rejectionists will be vindicated, at a cost which can be easily imagined, but sustained only with great difficulty.

It would be doubly tragic if that happened because of the mistaken belief that the attitudes that lie behind the documents (or at least behind the failure to amend them) must be changed by an arbitrary act of will before the political relationship can be changed.

In reality, it is the other way around: Only a changed political relationship (underpinned, to be sure, by appropriate security arrangements) will make it possible to change the attitudes and amend the documents or, more appropriately, ignore them as the irrelevancies they will be.

A flawed presidency

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Israel has often looked to the United States for new models and ideas, particularly in the realm of politics. In the past 10 years, America's presidential system, with fixed terms of office and a balance of power between different branches of government, seemed more efficient than our parliamentary system based on party lists and a government of constantly shifting coalitions.

Looking to the US, the Knesset adopted a semi-presidential system, and in the 1996 elections, the prime minister was chosen by direct popular vote. In addition, the new law made it more difficult for the Knesset to bring down the government. The result was supposed to create a more stable and efficient government.

Now, the flaws in the American system have become apparent. When, as in the cases of Bill Clinton or Richard Nixon, a president's behavior disqualifies him (or her) from occupying the most powerful office in the world, the US is paralyzed. The impeachment of the president is a long drawn-out process, during which much of the business of government is suspended.

In a parliamentary system, such as exists in most Western European states, a simple majority vote can force a prime minister to resign, either to be replaced by a new leader from the majority party or coalition, or triggering new elections. If the US used such as system, Clinton would have been evicted from the White House months ago, and Al Gore, or perhaps some other figure from the Democratic Party would have become president, at least until the next election.

As it is, the sordid details of Clinton's personal life and his legal entanglements have overwhelmed the substance of American policy, leading to a steep decline in leadership. Without a functioning president, concentrating efforts and focusing government policy on critical issues, the US is unable to act effectively in preventing crises, or in response to threats, including terrorist attacks against its embassies. (Indeed, the lack of American resolve in apprehending the terrorists responsible for the 1996 bombing of the US military housing complex near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, may be a factor in the recent bombings in Africa.)

Clinton's scandals have led to equivocation in dealing with Saddam Hussein, and reports indicate that the administration urged the UN inspectors to avoid confrontation with Iraq while the president was "preoccupied."

Similarly, even if he goes to Russia, as scheduled, next month, Clinton is unlikely to convince Boris Yeltsin to tighten control on Russian military exports to Iran.

ACCORDING to the textbooks, the office of the presidency and the powerful mechanism of government is far more important than the personality or peccadilloes of the individual who occupies that office at any given time. As a result, the government should continue to function, regardless of the personal scandals and problems in the White House.

Unless Bill Clinton resigns or is impeached, the US will appear paralyzed and unable to lead the world or respond with force until at least January 2001

For example, the departments of State and Defense should be making and executing policy, promoting America's vital interests around the world, even though Clinton himself is distracted. Preparations for attacking Iraq, or against those countries that provided assistance to the terrorists in the attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam should be continuing, without interruption.

However, it is clear that the theory is not reflected in the political realities. Officials in the Clinton administration are clearly demoralized, embarrassed by Washington's soap operas. In the decision to launch a military attack, and to gain both domestic and international support, the US needs a visible leader. Ronald Reagan may have been a passive president, allowing his officials and advisers to make most of the decisions, but he was a master at bringing those decisions to the public.

A president must be able to talk to other leaders without embarrassing silences on the other end, and to convince the US public that military action and its possible consequences, in terms of potential casualties, is justified. For all of his difficulties, in 1991, George Bush fulfilled this obligation and did his job successfully, and even Clinton seemed to thrive in this public role, and was widely admired in Israel, until the scandals became too deep to ignore.

It is difficult to imagine Clinton regaining this ability during the two-and-a-half years that are left of his term. This means that unless he resigns or is impeached, for all intents and purposes the US will appear paralyzed and unable to lead the world or respond with force until at least January 2001.

According to opinion polls, the American public, which is generally satisfied with Clinton's domestic and economic policies, is not demanding impeachment or resignation. If this does not change, the implication is that America's allies, and Israel in particular, must not assume that the US will respond to threats, even to protect vital interests.

From this perspective, both the president and the presidential system have lost their halos. Leaders, whether kings, prime ministers, party secretaries, or presidents, are all human beings, and many that reach the top also have fundamental character flaws that impede their ability to lead once they get there. Perhaps the Israeli system, which attempts provide stable and efficient leadership, but also reminds officials of their vulnerability, is a better form of government.

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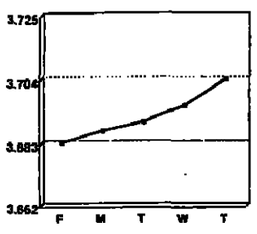
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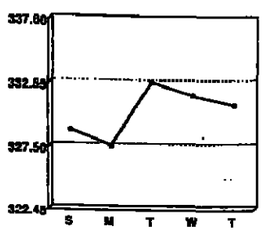
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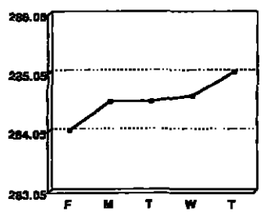
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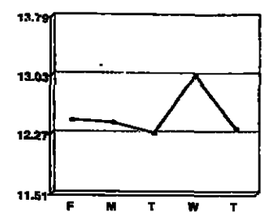
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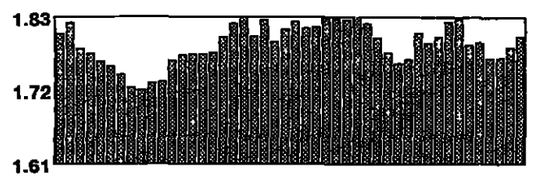
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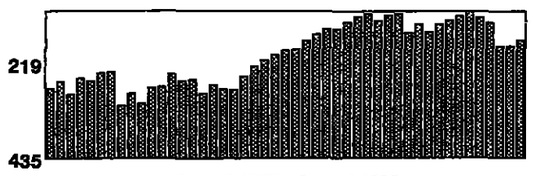


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BITS & BYTES

By RINA GILBERT

IDC: Computer spending down 8.5%

Israel spent $307.4 million on computer systems, servers and workstations in 1997, an 8.5% decline compared with $335.8m. a year earlier, according to a report on the market in 1997 by International Data Corporation.

Noting that the systems market in Israel is quite mature, together with the downward trend in average system prices, IDC predicts that the value of the corporate computer market will continue to decline this year, with growth eventually picking up in 1999, and stabilizing to a yearly growth of 5% to the end of 2002.

IDC, a Massachusetts-based information technology market research firm, noted medium-sized businesses were the fastest-growing sector in 1997, with more than one-third of spending on computer systems. Demand by large and small businesses did not grow.

The report said IBM, Digital and Hewlett-Packard control most of the corporate computer market. Sun Microsystems was in fourth place, with a lead in the workstation market, while Silicon Graphics, which substantially increased its server sales, was in fifth place.

EduSoft to launch China sales

EduSoft announced this week that it is to begin selling its English-learning multimedia products in China, under an exclusive marketing agreement with China's largest software development and distribution house, CS.

Menachem Hasfari, CEO of the Rosh Ha'ayin-based company, said CS has obligated to sell a minimum of $500,000 a year under the deal. EduSoft is only now entering China because it took time to find a suitable partner and address the problems of piracy in the country, Hasfari added.

The material, contained on CD-ROMs, will be copied from a master and distributed by CS. To solve the piracy problem, the company bought technology from a UK company that will not allow the material to be copied, he said.

The help programs in the English-learning multimedia system were translated into Mandarin Chinese in China. Other sales in the Far East include in Japan, Taiwan, Philippines and Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Thailand.

MedSim simulators to Korea

MedSim, a Kfar Sava-based medical technology company, is to supply its ultrasound training simulation system, UltraSim, for integration into Korean ultrasound maker Medison's equipment.

The agreement with the Seoul-based company is expected to result in sales for MedSim of $1 million in the first year, the company said.

CEO Nimrod Gur said the agreement with Medison is significant because it is likely to lead to more strategic partnerships with other leading ultrasound makers worldwide.

MedSim was established four years ago by experts in aviation simulation technology, medicine, and education. In 1997 the company began sales, which amounted to $2 million. Sales this year are expected to amount to $3.5m.

The company is owned by its management, venture capital funds – including Medica Investments, Yozma, Etgar, Arison Investments – and other investors here and in the US.

Netcom to set up Hebrew U. network

Netcom has signed a three-year agreement with Hebrew University under which it is to install a network system based on ATM technology at the school's campuses.

Netcom is to install Cisco's End-to-End network system as part of the project, to include support for data and multimedia transmission based on Ethernet technology to connect users and servers.

Netcom said the contract would be worth millions of shekels. Netcom, based in Petah Tikva, is part of the Aurec group. It specializes in organizational end-to-end networking solutions, allowing any person access to any type of up-to-date information anytime, anywhere.

Hapoalim owners seek NIS 1b. dividend

Move would violate promise to cap dividends at 50% of net

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Globes Business News

The controlling shareholders of Bank Hapoalim have reached an agreement on a dividend of more than 50 percent of the bank's profits, some NIS 1b. for 1997 and the first half of 1998.

The decision was made although the controlling share holders promised when acquiring control from the government last year to distribute a dividend of 50%.

A spokeswoman for the bank said that it is not expected to announce its dividend policy before the next meeting of the board of directors on August 31.

The financial daily *Globes* reported, however, that after a series of discussions in the US, the Israeli shareholders, the Arison and Dankner groups, succeeded in convincing the American shareholders, the Steinhardt group, Len Abramson, and the Hyperion Fund to distribute a higher dividend than originally agreed.

The agreement is based on the assumption that withdrawing the dividend will allow the bank to meet the demands of the supervisor of banks, including maintaining a minimum ratio of 9 percent equity to risk assets.

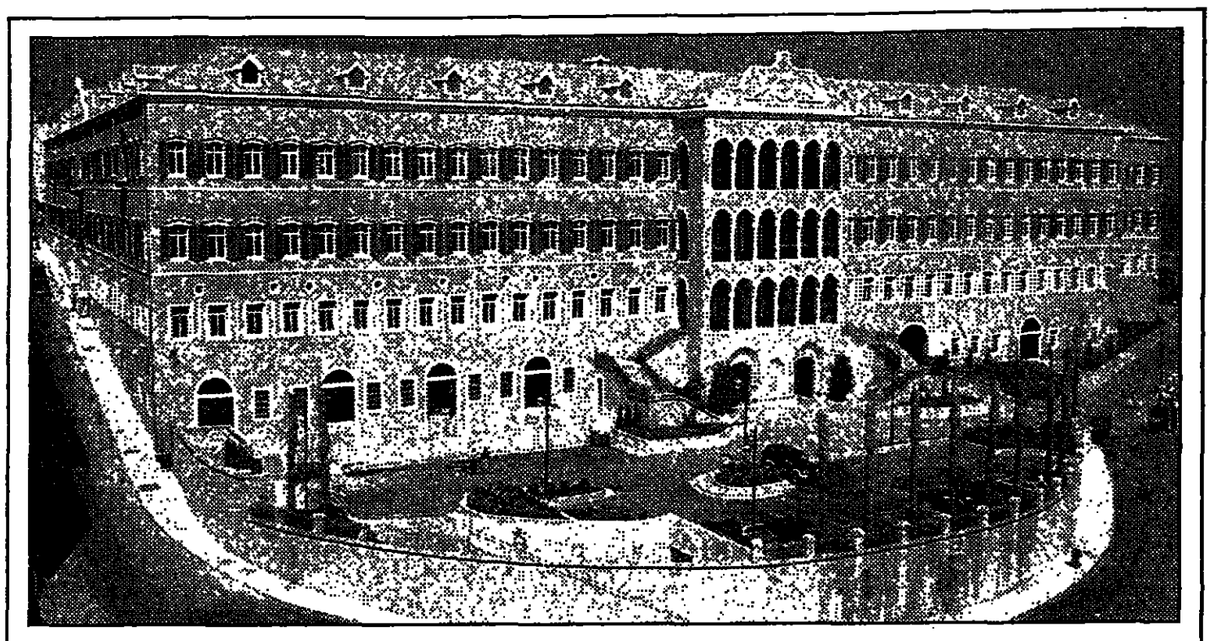
Accounting examinations are currently being conducted at the bank, and the final decision concerning the dividend is expected close to publication of the bank's first half results at the end of the month.

Hapoalim's net profits amounted to about NIS 1b. last year. In the first quarter of 1998, it posted net profits of NIS 277 million. According to estimates, the bank is likely to post about NIS 300m. in the second quarter, not including revenues from the sale of Delek Israel Fuel Corp. to contractor Yitzhak Teshuva.

Total dividend for 1997 and the first half of 1998 at the rate of 50%, amounts to about NIS 775m., well below the NIS 1b. the group intends to withdraw. It should be noted, however, that this sum does not include revenues from the sale of Delek, which was sold for NIS 385 million.

At the same time, Bank Leumi announced yesterday that its board of directors has decided to continue its dividend distribution policy of 35% of net profits for the coming three years. This had been the bank's practice in 1996 and 1997.

The bank paid a dividend of NIS 755 million in 1997, part of a total NIS 1.3 billion in the past five years.



Lebanon government house renovated
A general view of the restored downtown Beirut Serail, or government house, where an inaugural cabinet session headed by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was held for the first time in 17 years yesterday. The serail, originally built in 1831, was devastated during the 1975-90 civil war. It was restored over four years at a cost of $27 million. (AP)

El Al sale delayed

By DAVID HARRIS

The sale of 49 percent of El Al will take place toward the middle of next year at the earliest, and not in early 1999 as originally planned, according to one of the government officials closest to the company's privatization.

The official failed to explain the reason for the delay.

The Government Companies Authority, the state body charged with selling the company, still has to finalize details of how the sale will affect the workers, security, the government's "golden shares," and the small holding of the Jewish Agency.

El Al sources said they are not surprised by the latest delay, adding that the sale was first mooted 10 years ago. "Nothing ever happens here," one said.

Once the sale has been completed, there will be no further attempt by the present administration to float or sell shares.

"There will be no further sale of El Al shares under the current government," said the official. "There simply won't be enough time."

The official denied the Shabbat flight issue was the key reason for the government selling fewer than 50% of shares.

El Al executives, former Knesset privatization subcommittee chairman Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), and a variety of other interested parties believe the sale will not be success while a ban on Shabbat and holiday flights remains in force.

The official admitted the shares will have to be sold at a cheaper price because of the lack of a seven-days-a-week service. "It is possible to sell the company without Shabbat flights," said the official. However, asked to name a single investor prepared to buy the company faced with such a restriction, he admitted that "at present there aren't any."

AIG buys SunAmerica for $18b. in stock

By GORDON MACKENZIE

LONDON (Reuters) – American International Group Inc. has agreed to acquire SunAmerica Inc. in a stock swap worth $18 billion, the two big insurance companies said yesterday.

The deal will move AIG, one of the biggest US insurers, into the financial services business, where SunAmerica is a leader in annuities.

In the transaction, SunAmerica shareholders will get 0.855 share of AIG for each SunAmerica share. The deal has been approved by the boards of directors of both companies and must also be approved by regulators and shareholders.

The deal is the latest in a huge range of acquisitions and investments the dynamic US insurer has made this year, and one firmly aimed at tapping the pockets of America's baby boomers.

Already in 1998, AIG has made seven significant acquisitions and investments in insurance ventures around the world, and has pumped also funding into ventures ranging from Korean Telecom's firm Hansol to Indian trunk pipeline company Petronet.

The deal for SunAmerica – a leading distributor of retirement investment plans – will allow AIG to exploit uncertainty over the future of the US social security programme.

Americans are increasingly prepared to plough funds into plans promising them financial security in the future, creating a growing pie of retirement investments. As the pie grows, more and more companies want a slice, with insurers, mutual fund companies and banks all competing for market share.

Growth has been such that Sunamerica has posted earnings growth for the last 31 quarters on the trot, and in July it reported a massive 140% increase in third quarter sales to a record level of $2.6 billion.

"It is such success that will have attracted AIG. It may have been the difficulty of maintaining it in an increasingly competitive market which persuaded SunAmerica to look for a big partner," said a London insurance analyst who declined to be named.

Another analyst commented: "Basically it shows that large insurers are still prepared to go for big acquisitions if they have to, to improve their strategic positions in one go.

"AIG is always prepared for acquisitions in areas where it thinks it is relatively weak," he said.

"However the price does not seem very cheap. It values SunAmerica just below 50 percent of assets under management or six times its net asset value which seems to be a very big number.

"It's a very good business, growing very strongly and booming in the US," said the analyst.

SunAmerica is the second attempt by chairman and chief executive officer Eli Broad to exploit the US baby boom, having started home building firm Kaufman & Broad in 1957.

With around 9,500 brokers it has the fifth-largest securities sales force in the US It provides its services through 12 subsidiaries – five insurance firms, four broker dealers, an investment adviser, a trust services firm and a premium finance provider.

Analysts: US investors unmoved by Israeli political situation

By DAN GERSTENFELD

US investors are not concerned by the deadlock in the peace process and the political tensions in Israel, said Andrew Neff, senior managing director of Bear Stearns & Co.

"You have so many problems everywhere else around the world. If you pick up the paper you hear about a riot here, a bomb there, and a strike here. I don't think investors are that worried about what's going on in Israel," Neff told the *The Jerusalem Post*. He added that when compared to the situation in South-East Asia, Israel is still attractive.

Neff, who came to Israel to participate in a panel sponsored by The Jerusalem College of Technology-Machon Lev and The Jerusalem Development Authority, added that he believes that in the future more Israeli high-tech companies will be acquired by international bodies.

He added that local companies have learned the lessons of the past and improved their marketing and management. "There used to be a typical Israeli company with not a very good marketing and great technology. Today it's different and you've got good marketing and good technology," Neff said.

"We have seen that Israeli companies have gotten much better over the years," he said.

Concerning the decline in the number of Israeli companies going public in the US, Morris Smith, former managing director of Fidelity Magellan Fund, said during the panel that this trend would continue if market conditions don't improve.

"A bear market is never a good environment for IPO's," Smith said. "I can safely predict that if we have a real bear market, the IPO window will be shut."

Neff added that local companies should also be more selective when choosing an underwriter. "From an issuer standpoint, we can't take the more marginal companies public in this sort of environment," Neff said. "You need to have a real strong story and you have to give better valuation."

Smith recommended that Israeli companies who want to go public agree to lower the offering price. "I have seen too many companies in the past which made the egregious mistake of fighting about another eighth, quarter or half a point on an IPO price sometimes never raising the capital afterwards."

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Marcia: Fax 02-5612114, Phone 02-5619939, 5639963
Esther Sorscher: 02-5670690, Judy 02-5663308 Eves (7 - 9 p.m.)

Were you prepared for the current market correction?

CommStock Commentary readers were ready!

In the first week of August, analysts from three major brokerage firms suddenly became bullish and bearish about the market. But the correction had already taken place – so the advice came too late for many investors.

CommStock didn't wait. On July 28, Tzemach Richter, director of our international stocks division, indicated that the U.S. market was ripe for a correction in CommStock Commentary, our free financial report. Investors who took Tzemach's advice are now actually benefiting from the market drop.

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TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	461	-22.5
Africa Israel 0.1	22300	0.4
Africa Israel 1	202000	0
Agis	2930	-0.4
Al Paper Mills	14100	-1.3
Al-Rov	2970	-1.1
Azorim	3330	2.7
Azorim Prop.	688	3.3
Bank Leumi 0.1	672	0.3
Basan	3040	0
Bayside 1	46200	0.2
Bayside 5	218000	0
Bezeq	1202	-4.2
Blue Square	5220	1.5
Brenco	3320	0.3
Clal Electronics	58200	-1.4
Clal Industries	2230	0
Clal Insurance	3950	-1.5
Clal Israel 1	10030	0.1
Dan Hotels	1148	1
Delshot	1930	-8.5
Derbuy	900	0
Dead Sea Works 0.1	960	2
Delek 0.1	19200	-0.3
Delek Gar	715	0
Development Mort	25800	-1.1
Discount Bank	466	0.9
Discount Inv.	11840	-0.5
Elbit 0.003	920	0
Elbit Imaging	2880	-1
Elbit system	4800	-1
Elco	2420	1.7
Elco Industries	3950	7.6
Electra	18900	1.3
Electra App	2980	2
Elite Ind. 1	2400	-5
Elite Ind. 5	11400	-1.6
Elron-0.003	5190	-2.3
FIBI 5	3410	-1.2
First Int'l 1	476	-0.4
First Int'l 5	2450	0
First Int'l Mort	59400	9.1
Formula	10940	-3.9
General Bank	10800	1.9
Granit Hacarmel	765	1.7
Hadarim Prop.	9530	-2.9
Ham-Let	1980	0
Hapoalim 0.1	992	0.5
Harel Mishmar 1	3800	0
Harel Mishmar 5	17600	0
I.D.B. Dev.	9770	0.2
I.D.B. Holdings	9510	-0.2
IDCC	22950	-0.4
Ind Bldgs	596	-0.5
Israel Chemicals	456	-0.7
Israel Corp. 1	29900	0
Isracar	700	0
Jalosa	820	1.5
JCT	372	0
JEC	1890	0
Kitan	415	-3.8
Knafaim	5210	3.8
Koor	41000	-0.2
Leader	1200	-4
Leumi Insurance	228	-2.6
Leumi Mortgage	88500	0
Lidaz	3690	-0.3
Maldzeshim Agan Ind.	1135	0
Mamen	940	0
Matab	4520	0.9
Mehadrin	13140	1.1
Mei Eden	1700	2.9
Meilsserca	1183	0
Menorah Ins. 1	2170	-5.1
Milcmor	1555	-0.2
Mishkan	72500	-0.4
Mizrahi Inv.	8200	-1.1
NATSWA REGULAR	1560	1.9
Nice Systems	13430	-2.8
Oil	7850	0
Orbit	1200	-1.8
Ormat Industries	580	0
Osem Industries	1945	3.9
Petrochemicals	1930	0.5
Phoenix Ins. 1	5800	0
Poalim Inv.	12100	-0.8
Prop & Bldg	33100	0.3
Self Industries	2050	1.5
Solel Bone	4800	0.2
Supersol	1123	-0.2
Tadiran	14170	1.2
Tambour	520	-1.5
Telshot	208500	2.2
Tempo	1940	-5.7
Teva	14500	1.7
Urdan	257	-1.2
Wire and Cables	1100	0
Ytong Industries	935	0

KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous GD	392	-0.8
Solomon Holdings	412	0.5
Abjac	139	0
Abtec	441.5	0
Ace-Spade	87.5	-9
Ackerstein Bond B	170.8	0.5
Ackerstein Ind.	565	1.1
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1980	0
Ackerstein Zvi 5	8380	0
adekom	36.5	0
Adanim	337785	0
Adler	104	0
Adina	148.5	0
Adumim	218	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	377.4	-0.7
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	73.9	6.4
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	137.5	-0.4
Afsek Ind	1090	0
Agis Warrant 3	20	0
Agis Warrant 4	475	0
Agish Int'l	343	0
Agri Investments	549	0
Al-Ban	113	0
Al-Ben Bond A	117	1.3
Alfa c2	101	0.8
Alfa w6	144.4	-4.4
Alliance	837	-2
Alon	300	0
Alony-Hetz	529	-1.3
Alony-Hetz Bond A	246	0
Alrod	247	6.9
Alrod Warrant 1	37	0
Alrov Bond D	83	0
Alrov Warrant 5	323	0
Alumir	229	0
Alumot	2229	0
Amigar	178	0
Amitec	210	-2.6
Ammeil Warrant 1	33	0
Ampal	650	0
Ampa Investments	127000	0
Analyst EMS	840	-2.4
Angel Trade	33.5	-0.9
Angel Trade Bond A	146.5	0.3
Angel Trade Bond B	115.5	0
Angel Trade Bond C	61	0
Apcon	931	0.5
Apcon warrant 1	307	0
Applitop	3550	2.5
Arisalf Warrant 2	587	-12
Arad	1680	-2.4
Arad Towels	979	2.2
Arazim	675	10.1
Arazim Bond 1	245	0.4
Argaman	255	0
Arkadia	1078	0
Arpal	349	0
Arye	130	1.9
Ashdar	525	-9
Ashkelon Plywood	248	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	126	-0.4
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	373	0
Asteks	157	0
Asteks Bond A	315	0
Ashot	168.2	0
Ashot Bond A	84	0
Ashpaza	776	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	153.5	-0.8
Ashtrom Bond 2	654	0
Ashtrom Ind.	223	0
Asifoppe Prop.	82.2	0
Astrom P Bond 1	27	0
Astrom p warrant a	99.8	0
Astrum Bond C	26.8	1.9
Astrum Warrant 2	76	0
Atlon	2380	0
Atmor	213	9.8
ATX	153	0
ATX Bond A	225	0
Atzmon	3800	1.1
Aura	401	-2.2
Avarot	164	0
Avarot Bond A	545	0
Avebooch Formica	332	0
Aviv	154	0
Aviv Bond 1	93	0
Aviv Bond 2	2.3	0
Avner	94	0
Avrol Bond 2	83	-11.1
Avrot Warrant 2	454	0
Avalon	445	0
Azimuth	171	0.6
Azorim Properties Bond 3	800	10
Azotlat Warrant 13	102	1
Azorim Warrant 5	694	9.5
Azorim Warrant A	750	6.7
Azorim Warrant B	35.1	0
Badesh Bond 1	412	0
Bafa	118.5	0
Balantine 1	131	-0.4
Balantine Bond A	5.6	-8.7
Balantine Warrant 2	2900	0
Balton	102	0
Barak'asaf	148.4	0
Barkit'asaf Bond A	320	0
Bar	0	0
Bar Bond A	131.5	0
Barel	254	-0.4
Barel	668	0.3
Baranowitz	730	-0.7
Barkan	84	-5.1
Barzel	247	0
Bartal	163.5	0
Baumel Moshe	92	0
BaySide Bond 2	2310	0
BaySide Warrant D	1548	1.1
Bet Shemesh	349	0
Bekron	174.5	0.6
Ben Yakar Bond A	97	-0.5
Ben Yakar Bond B	3993	0
Ben Yakar Gat	179	0
Benmax	125.5	-1.9
Besek Bond 3	2540	0
Besek Bond 4	0	0
Besek Warrant 3	339	-7.4
Besek Warrant Bond 3	2200	2.3
Bilu	193	0
Bilu Bond A	400	0
Binat	201	0
Bin	83.5	0
Bobe Bond B	45	0
bobe gad warrant 1	605	0
Bonat Tichon	498	0
Boojoor		

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous Brothers	161	0
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	263	0
Boulous GD Bond A	139	0
Brand	86.5	0
Brik	93	0
Brok Side	14.5	0
Brosh	119.5	-0.4
Building Bank	1597	-9.7
Building Resou.	3600	0
C Holdings	570	0
C Holdings Bond 5	63	0
C Holdings Warrant 3	1	0
Caesarea 1	4900	0
Canlet	3730	-0.8
Capital	810	0
Capital Bond A	130	0
Caprice	350	2.9
Cargal	660	-3
Carmel	546	-3.7
Carmiel	476	0
Castro	573	0
Catalena 1	343	0
CDI	178.5	0
Cementacel Bond A	78.7	0
Cementacel	440	3.4
Centre	142	0
Centre Bond 1	141	-1.1
Chem	507	0
Cheyun Computers	144	0
Chemipel	434	-0.2
Chim-Nir	510	-4.1
CI Systems	185	0
Clalsh	146.5	0
Clal Computers	6750	1.1
Clal Israel 5	0	0
Clal Retail	82783	-2
Cohen Bent	123.5	0
Cohen Dec	213	0
Cohen Mill	148	0
Cold Storage 1	2000	0
Cold Storage 5	9010	0
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	260	-0.4
Compl	147	0
Compl Warrant 1	20	0
Computite	184	0
Combech	418	0
Comtrans	782	0
Contal	1059	0
Contractors	16812	0
Coral Beach	549	0
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	2980	-0.7
Cyclone Bond 1	254	0
Cyclone Bond 2	159.2	1.4
Dafron	1728	0
Dafron Bond 1	250	0.4
Dalin	1.4	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	744	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	161	-0.6
Danbar 1	6000	0
Danbar 5	15000	-2.2
Danber Bond A	266	0
Danber Resources	7800	1.3
Danber Resources Bond B	168.2	-0.4
Danber Tech.	5970	0
Danber Technologies Bond A	153.3	0
Daniel	52	0
Daniel Bond A	91.5	0
Daniel Personnel	2250	0
Daniel Warrant 2	438	-3.7
Dankner Bond 1	216	0
Dankner Bond 2	140	0
Dankner Bond 3	98.1	0
Dankner Warrant C	581	0
Danly	405	-5.8
Dansil	100	0
DARBAN BOND 2	104.2	0
Darban Bond A	269	0
DARBAN W2	212	-9.8
Darban Warrant 3	140	0
Darpa	156.5	3.8
Darlon	213	0
Dash investment	998	0
Data	619	0
Declelon Systems	540	0
Degem Systems	560	-3.2
Delek Drillings	12.5	0
Delek Oil	1356	0
Delta 1	4060	-2
Delta 3	12000	1.7
Destiny	1308	-1.3
Digal	136	0
Dironi	1226	0
Dolav	337	2.1
Dolev Bond A	140.2	0
Dolev warrant 1	40	15
Domkar	405	0
Domkar Bond	155	0
Dor Berger	386	-4.9
Dor Chim	969	7.9
Dorc w1	96	0
Doras	56	0
Dorl o1	96.8	0
Dori Engineering	446	-0.9
Dori Engineering Bond A	140.5	-0.4
Dovrat Bond A	139.8	0
Dovrat Shrem	1468	-0.4
Dovrat Shrem Warrant 3	4.7	4.4
DSL	1037	0.9
Dubek M	2.4	0
Dubek S	2.7	0
Dunitz	301	0
DVG Industries	485	0
E & M Computing	1250	1.6
Edgar Alsani	92	0
Edgar Industries	195	1.5
Edgar Inv. Bond C	962	-0.3
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	23.5	0
Efrat Bond A	99	0
Eini	180	0
Elstan	306	-10.8
Elbroser	3270	0
El Bad	1955	-0.2
El Canit	578	0
El Canit Bond 1	159.5	0
Elad	500	8
Elad Bond A	172.1	0
Elad Bond B	150	0
Elad o3	77.7	0.5
Elad w5	57	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	125.7	0.6
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	200	-34.9
Eldan Tech.	222	0
Electronics Line	542	-0.9
Elgar	5380	0
Elshev	502	0
Elsech Ind.	1048	-3.8
Elsam	941	-0.3
Elta	3868	0
Elta Bond A	143	0.4
Elran	3880	-0.3
Elron Warrant 2	2214	-9.5
Emels	140	0
Emyle	681	0
Engal Const.	736	0
ESE	2140	2.3
Eshed Robotech	1492.5	0
Eson	395	0
Evergreen	3290	0
Evrois Warrant 1	1550	0
Excelence	1699	0
Export Inv.	995	8.5
Extra	89	0
Feldman	168	0
Feldman Bond A	146.5	0
Feldman Ind.	295	0
Feldman Warrant 3	25.8	0
Fertilisers 1	920	-2
Feuchswanger 1	10500	3.7
Feuchswanger 5	54800	2.9
Fidelil	2394	0
Five J Jewelers	316	1.9
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	129	0
Formica Source	116	0
Frutarom	400	2.2
Gahelek	15800	0
Galcom	209	0
Galran	1158	0
Gamal	206	8.6
Gamatronic	804	1
Gambit	1680	-4.7
Gan Shmoel Bond A	1227	-1.3
Gan Shmoel Warrant 3	394	-7.4
Gan Shmuel	1479	-4.8
Ganel Hadar	432	0.5
Gap Development	110	0
Gap Holdings	236	0
Gap Warrant 2	8.6	7
Gazit	885	0
Gazit Bond B	148	0
Gazit Bond C	123	0
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	57.8	-0.2
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	603	-4.5
Gibor Warrant 2	96	0
Gilbon	70.5	-2.1
Gilo	190	0
Gilsek	1850	-1.1
Gilot Olam Oil	74.5	0
Glob Rit	770	-0.3
Golan	615	0
Gold	403	-0.5
Golden House	400	0
Golden House Bond 1	254	0
Golex	185.5	0
Granit Bond	152	1.3
Granit Bond 2	157.7	1.7
Green Software	453	0
Greenberg	1615	-0.1
H. Electronics	49.5	0
H. Mar	925	0
Habas	2458	0
Habas Bond 1	135	0.4
Hadar 1	27400	-5.8
Hadar 5	69800	0
Hadar Ins. 1	989	-0.6
Hadar Ins. 5	3900	0
Hadarim Bond1.	115.2	0.2
Hadarim Warrant1	1320	-8.1
Hagal	370	-0.8
Hagal Bond B	153.5	-0.3
Hamashor	288	0
Hanel	5.2	-1.9
Harel Bond A	480	0
Hasin Esh	572	0
Hason	180.5	0
Hatehof 1	288	0
Hatehof Bond A	144.5	0
Hayel	1229	-1.3
Hayel Bond1	88	0
Hayel Bond2	145	0
Hayel Warrant 1	83.6	1.2
Hed Arzi Music	390	0
Hiron 1	11850	0
Hiron 5	44200	1.8
HL Service Bond 2	185.5	0.3
HL Service Bond 3	150.5	0.3
HL Services	1302	0
Hod	154	0
Hof	706	0
Hofit	1255	5.4
Home Center	7400	0
Hydrofles	121.5	-0.8
IES Industries	616	0
IES Warrant 1	97	0
Ilan Gat	118	0
Ilan Gat Bond A	149.5	0
ILDC Bond 6	391	0
ILDC Hotels	587	0
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	171.2	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	120	-6.7
ILDC Insurance	430	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	137.5	0
Imco	1063	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	42.3	-4.5
Ind Bldgs R1	22.1	0
Ind.Dev.Bank C	306	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	2950	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	2950	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1731	-1
Independence Mort	79800	-0.3

	LAST	CHANGE*
Intercosse	731	0
Intergamsya 1	3540	0
Intergamsya 5	13000	0
Isracl	1695	0
Isras	4139	0
Isracolor	432	0
Israel Corp 5	130000	0
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	141.5	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	177.1	0
Isralom	1046	0
Isralom Bond B	271	0
Isralom Bond C	90	-1.1
Issamco	2.5	0
Issras 1	7180	0
Issras 5	28100	0
Issras Bond A	252	0
ISTA LINES	2490	0
Italy	2300	0
Italy Bond 1	76	0.3
Italy Warrant 1	380	-17.5
Italy Warrant 2	22	0
Jalosa Bond A	149	0
Jayacur	137.5	0.4
Jaysour Bond A	105.5	0
JEC Bond B	97	0
Jerusalem Mort	218	0.5
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 15	162.5	0
Jaurassa	30.2	0
JOEL	93	1.1
JOEL Bond 1A	220	0
JOEL Bond 2	127.5	0
JOEL Bond A	221	0
JOEL Warrant 3	1.3	0
Kadmani	146	-7.5
Kadour	396	-0.5
kafrica bond b	89.5	0.4
kafrica warrant 1	80.9	1.1
Kalnit	145	0
Kallalit Bond A	98.9	2.4
Kallalit warrant 2	320	0
Kamour	549	-0.2
Kamour Bond G	130.1	0
Kanweept	1110	-0.8
Kanal Warrant G	1	0
Kanicol	30.7	0
Kanicol Bond A	36.1	0
Kardan 1	500	-7.8
Kardan 5	2510	-0.8
Katz	125	0
Katz Bond A	84	0
Kadem Chemicals	4000	0
Kadem Chemicals Bond 2	0	0
Kenitex	341	0
Kesher	680	-0.7
Kesher Bond A	152.3	0
Keter	685	0
Kind	252	-1.6
Kind Bond A	47.9	-8.8
King	398	0
Kinneret	227	0
Kitsh Kinur	185	0
Kohinal Textile	1210	0
Kitsl	329	0
Kitsl Bond A	153	0
Kitsl Bond A	120	0
Kill Ind. 5	5790	-0.6
Koor Bond 5	149.5	-0.3
Kopel	250	4.2
Kopel Bond 1	245	0
La Nationale Bond A	139	0
La Nationale Pref	131	-9.2
Lachish	3250	0
Lamont	800	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	72	-2.8
Lasers	370	-8.1
Lavlav	551	0
Lazmick Bldg	450	0
Lazmick Comm Cbs	156.5	-3.4
Lazmick Commercial Centres Bond	134	0
Lazmick Ind Bldgs	340	0
Lazmick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	149	0
Leader Warrant B	4.1	5.1
Lego	480	0
Leurel R4	0	0
Leventhal	411	-0.2
Levi	870	-1
Levi Bond A	143.4	-0.9
Levi Bond B	94	0.2
Levi Warrant 2	76	0
Levinstein Bond A	98	-0.5
Levinstein Warrant 2	720	0
Levirstein	1540	4.5
Liber	337	-4.3
Lidan	1390	2.9
Lilalir I	195	0
Lilalir 5	749	0
Liquit	733	0
Lipsi Bond 1	151	-1
Lighterage 1	600	0
LMS	245	0
Lipman	2800	0
Lipski	2810	0
Lipski Bond A	169	0
Lisz Bond A	151.8	-1.2
Lodan	140	0
Lodzia 1	1393	0
Lodzia 4	5418	0
Lohot Galil	144.5	0
Lohot Galil Bond 1	140.5	0
Lumir	3470	-5.2
Ma'ariv	2810	2.4
Ma'ariv Bond A	139	-0.3
Maabarot	1298	5.2
Macpell	811	-1.7
Macpell Bond A	140.6	0
Macpell Bond B	118.1	1.7
Macpell Bond C	814	-0.4
Macpell Warrant 2	84.5	0
Madi	750	0
Magam	141.5	0
Magam Bond A	168.5	0
Magan Bond B	130	0
Magav	172	0.3
Magma	57.5	-10.2
Magor 1	2120	0
Magor 5	10500	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	86	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	483	-46.6
Maiol	285	0
Mail	268	0
Malibu 1	0	0
Malibu 5	0	0
Malibu Bond B	0	0
Malta	760	0
Man	77	-8.8
Man Bond A	215	-0.9
Mantar	24.8	0
Marathon	109	0
Marathon Insured	109.6	0.4
Mario Lazmick Constr. Bond 1	170	0
Mario Lazmick Constr. Bond 2	153.9	0.5
Maritime Bank	1500	0.1
Maritime Bank Bond A	188.5	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	144.2	0
Mashav	843	0
Mashbir	888	-0.7
Mashov	388	2
Mashov	152	0
Matam	1338	5.5
Matav Warrant 1	1240	3.9
Maxima 1	367	0
Maxima 5	1985	0.5
Mazpak	714	0.6
Med. Hotels	34.2	0
Medtechnics	705	-0.7
Medtechnics Bond A	136	0
Medtechnics Bond B	84.5	0
Medtechnics Warrant 2	158	0
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	50	0
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	421	2.9
Meir Eizen	2180	0
Meir Ezra Bond B	282	0
Melot	305	0
Mellisaron Bond B	94.5	0
Mellisaron Warrant 3	51	-13.7
Mendelson	215	0
Menofim	34.7	0
Menorah Ins. 5	8780	-0.2
Merkaz	2250	0
Merkom	1938	0
Meytarit	253	-1.9
Middle East Tube	396	-1
Middle East Tube Bond A	110.2	3.8
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	20	20
Milenor Bond A	136.6	-1
Milkomar Bond B	85.8	0.9
Milkomar Warrant 2	159	0
Milmeir	99	-1
Mind Line	590	0
Minrav	13900	0.7
Minuge	216	0
Minuge Bond A	137.5	-0.1
Minuge Warrant 1	14	0
Mirontit	80	0
Mishmoret	18	0
Mishmoret Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	149.8	0
Mishor Hashol	374	0
Missami	183	0
Mivtach Shamir	2580	1.2
Mivtach Shamir	1401	0
Mizrahi	944	-0.6
Mizrahi warrant 1	362	-4.4
Mizrahi warrant 2	195.1	-2.5
MM Engineering	140.5	1.1
MM Engineering Bond A	106.5	0
Modgal	667	-0.4
Modiin	1	-50
Moflet	215	-0.9
Moflet Convertible Bond AAA	309	0
Molet	576	0
More Plastic Ind.	403	0
Moshkovitz	196	0
MTI Computers	424	0
Mul-T-Lock	770	-1.3
Mula Senter	223	0
Nachalon Fund	48.4	-1
Naphtha	53.5	1.5
Naphtha Of Exp.	28.1	0
Natbur	733	-4.2
NATSWA BOND A	104.7	0
Navigator	366	0
Navigator Property	758	-0.1
Nechushtan Bond B	51	-1.9
Nechushtan Prop.	198.9	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	136.2	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	29	-15.2
Negev Ceramics	157	0
Nehushtan 1	600	0
Nehushtan 5	2500	0
Neot Aviv	7200	2.5
Nessus	470	0
Nesa Arbel	135.5	0
Nevlim Hotels	365	0
Newlot	800	0
Nia	233	0
Nilav	1098	0
Nimco	2780	-2.5
Nimrodim	285	-5
NMC	278	0
Noga	1700	0
Noga Insorans	114	0
Nordan	10.9	0
Nordan Tech.	390	0.5
Norlodz	899	0
Norlodz Bond A	148	0
Nur	63	0
NYP	991	-0.7
Oceana	286	0
Odl Bond A	182	0
Odl Bond C	91.7	-0.1
Odl Warrant 2	723	0
Octava	830	0
Olak	230	-2.1
Oler Bro	6090	0
Oltis	1190	0
Ogdau	61	0
Oluley	469	0
Oil Fields	1	0
Old-Dak	283	1.4
Omal	265	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Omaltech	203	0
Optrir	413	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optimal	124.5	0
Osayar	2711	0
Ossdi	330	0
Ossdi Bond A	161	0
Osta	3630	0
Osta Bond 1	163	0
Osem	649	0.2
Otdal	125	0
Otilia	333	0
Otilia Bond A	94	0
Otilia Warrant 2	36	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	129	0
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	180	0
Orsal	380	0
Otzar Hashiton	26800	-1.9
Oz	237	0
Oz attda	516	17.6
Packer Steel	5600	1.7
Paltough	602	-1.3
PAM	575	-1.4
Pama	701	0
Pamas	2720	0
Pan Dor	271	-1.5
Pardes	211	0
Pardes Bond A	57.5	0
Passport	2460	4.5
Paz Chen	525	0
PCB	1580	-1.9
Pelan Investment	48	0
Perrig	105	0
Perfolese	894	3.3
Phoenix Ins. 5	20300	0
Pica Plast	460	1.1
Pinros	126	0
Pinros Bond A	145	0
Pitch	403	0
Plason bond a	102	0
Plason warrant 1	445	-7.9
Plasson	4100	2.4
Plasto Sac	680	0
Plasto Shack Bond A	91	0
Plasto Shack Warrant 2	99.9	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	94.7	0.3
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2500	0
Poalim Investments Bond A	136.6	0
Poalim Warrant 3	0	0
Point of Sale	2180	1.4
Polak	273	-0.4
Polgat A	329	-4.6
Polgat B-4	1200	0
Polgat Bond B	0	0
Polygon	217	-1.8
Polygon Bond 2	222	0
Ponz	252	-1.6
Port	78	0
Poseidon	127.3	-1.3
Prl Hasmek	20.5	-0.5
Prl Hasmek Bond A	37	0
Pritzker	219	-1.8
Pritzker Bond A	146	-0.3
Profil	302	0
Profil Bond A	131	0
Pyrhon	540	0.6
Quality Cap Mkts	980	0
Rabinex	289	19.3
Ram Zur	88	0
Ramgor 1	277	0
Ramgor 4	685	0
Rapak	2600	0
Rapak Bond A	160	-0.6
Rassco	1400	0.4
Ratio	1	0
Rav Car	89

TASE closes mixed

	LAST	CHANGE*
Temple Inland	50.625	-0.3125
Tenneco	33.5	+0.4375
Tenet Health	27.0625	+0.5
Teradyne	21.4375	-1.0625
Tesoro Pet	16.75	-0.375
Texaco	62.3125	+0.3125
Texas Instrments	58.875	-1.625
Texas Utilities	40.3125	-0.4375
Textron	68.375	+1
Thiokol	-	-
Thomas & Betts	39.125	-0.3125
ThreeCom	31.375	+0.625
Time Warner	89.875	+1.375
Times-Mirror	60.9375	+0.5
Timken	22.125	-0.25
Torchmark	40.3125	-0.625
Tosco Corp	26.875	-0.0625
Toys R Us	20.5625	-0.0625
Transamerica	117.813	+1.875
Transco Energy	60.6875	-0.1875
Travellers Grp	66.0625	-2.125
Tribune	68.5	+1.3125
Triton Energy	17.6875	-0.4375
TWA	7.0625	-0.25
Tyco Intl Ltd	59.6875	-0.25
Tyler	6.125	-0.0625
UAL Corp	69.125	-1.9375
USG Corp	48.875	+1.5
UST Inc	26.875	+0.5
USX Marathon	30.375	+0.375
USX-US Steel	24.8125	-0.875
Ultramar Diam	26.875	+0.25
Unicom Corp	34.5	+0.125
Unilever PLC	38	+0.25
Unilever NV	68.9375	+0.0625
Union Camp	41	-0.3125
Union Carbide	46.375	-0.1875
Union Pacific	38	+0
Unisys Corp	26.375	-0.625
USAIR Group	71	-0.4375
USF&G Corp	-	-
US Home	35.75	+0
US Surgical	45	+0.25
US Trust	71.5	-1.75
US West	51.8125	-0.0625
United Tech	88.5625	-0.125
Unocal Corp	35.6875	+0.5
VF Corp	44.25	-0.0625
VMRX Pharmaceutic	1.125	-0.09375
Vetaro Energy	23.0156	+1.1875
Varian Assoc	36.125	-0.25
Viacom Inc	60.625	-0.4375
Vishay	13.875	-0.625
Vulcan Materials	115.563	-0.875
Wachovia	83.625	-1.125
Walgreen	45.875	+0.25
Wal-Mart Stores	64.75	+0.75
Warner-Lambert	72.875	+1.0625
Wash Gas Light	24.5	-0.125
Washington Mutu	36.6125	+0.375
Washington Post	519.938	-3.9375
Waste Mgmnt Inc	50.3125	+0.6875
Watkins-Johnson	23	-0.125
Wats Markets	35.4375	+0.3125
Wells Fargo	329	-5.625
Wendy's Intl	22	-0.125
Westvaco	23	-0.0625
Weyerhaeuser	38.1875	-0.6875
Whirlpool	47.25	-0.125
Whitman	19.5	-0.25
Williams Co	29.1875	-0.3125
Winn Dixie Stos	39.5625	+0.8125
Woolworth	12	-0.1875
World Comm	54.0625	+0.0625
Worthington Ind	13.8125	+0.125
Wrigley	64.6875	-0.4375
Xerox	105.438	-1.8125
Yahoo	97.5	+2.25
Yellow Freight	14.5625	-0.0625
Zero Co	-	-

	LAST	CHANGE*
Daimler-Benz	180.9	-1.7
Lufthansa	47.3	-0.2
Mannesmann	167.5	-5.6
Metallgesellschaft	35.1	-0.1
Volkswagen	145.7	-2.8

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK(DATE 20-AUG-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sel (Basket) (1)	3.9442	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.704	0
British Pound (1)	6.0334	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.0639	0
French Franc (1)	0.8155	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.611	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.4616	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.4253	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.0619	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.2041	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	8611.41	-81.87
DJ Transport	3047.25	-17.63
DJ Utils	280.09	+0.12
DJ Comp	2697.35	-18.72
NYSE Industr	676.29	-3.23
NYSE Transport	448.3	+0.53
NYSE Comp	548.22	-3.89
S&P 100	538.54	-3.53
S&P Spot Index	1091.6	-6.48
Israel Index	228.44	-2.76

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5696.4	-57.9
Tokyo Nikkei	15391.4	-14.9
Singapore all-share Index	278.23	-1.32
Hong Kong Hang Seng index	7742.5	+120
Israel Index	228.44	-2.76
Paris CAC 40	4067.49	-38.23
DAX	5596.41	+27.53
Madrid	692.02	+7.15
Swiss Marinet Index	765.18	-105.7
Sydney	2858.5	-22.4
Milan	1514.43	+7.03

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound:spot	1.6308	+0.0085
Sep.future (CME)	1.6392	+0.0094
D-mark:spot	1.7980	-0.0021
Sep.future (CME)	0.5565	-0.0007
S-franc: spot	1.507	-0.0014
Sep.future (CME)	0.6659	-0.0001
Yen: spot	143.1	-0.64
Sep.future (CME)	0.007012	+3.6e-005
CanDlr:spot	1.5312	-0.0026
Sep.future (CME)	0.6533	+0.0008
AusDlr:spot	0.5899	-0.0027
Sep.future (CME)	0.5899	-0.0025
F-franc: spot	6.033	+0.003
It Lira: spot	1774.5	+4
Nlg: spot	2.0295	+0.0052
AusSchg: spot	12.6535	-0.0001
Rand:spot	6.375	+0.035
ECU: spot	1.0968	+0.0001

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (CEC)	1545	-0
Coffee (Sep) (CEC)	113.95	-3.9
Wheat (Sep) (CBOT)	255.75	-2.25
Soybean (Sep) (CBOT)	540.25	-7
Sugar (Oct) (CEC)	8.49	-0.04
Orange juice (Sep)(CEC)	112.05	-0
Crude Oil (Sep)(NYMEX)	13.54	0
Bonds:Sep.future	124.531	-0.59375
S and P:Sep.future	1094	-8.7

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (LCE)	1051	+1
Coffee (Sep) (LCE)	1625	-5
Brent crude oil (Sep)(IPE)	1205	0

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver:spot	5.17	+0.06

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Dec)	289	+1.8
Silver (Sep)	5.145	+0.077
Platinum (Oct)	373.8	+2
Palladium (Sep)	284.5	+6.45
High-grade copper (Sep)	0.746	+0.0145

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	283.7	-2.05
Gold PM fix	286.3	-0.2
Silver fix	510.3	+0.3

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK(DATE 20-AUG-98)

LONDON

Allied Domecq	535	-5.5
BAT Inds	679	-2.5
BT	848	+1
BTR	155	-3.25
Barclays	1580	-44
Bass	966	-7
Boots	1015	+9
British Airways	510	-9
Comm Union plc	1010	-17
Diageo	715	-10.5
General Electric	441.5	+0.5
Glaxo	1917	-18
Halifax	704	-22.5
HSBC (75p shs)	1384	+15
ICI	686	-7
Land Securities	899	+2.5
Lloyds Bank	776.5	-19
Marks & Spencer	516	-8
NatWest Bank	1188	+10
Prudential	821	+23
Reuters	598	-12.5
Sainsbury	533	-1.5
Shell Transport	349.5	-12.5
Tyco Intl	3850	+0
Unilever	583	-2.5
Zeneca	2398	-21

PARIS

Accor	1580	-11
Air Liquide	880	-7
Alcatel Alsthem	1178	-6
Euro Disney	10.15	-0.3
Moulinex	134	+1.1
Paribas	584	-6
Pernod Ricard	404	-1
Peugeot	1126	+17
Saint Gobain	1030	-8

FRANKFURT

Bayer	73.5	-5.9

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.8.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.91922	3.9753	—	—	3.9442
U.S. dollar	3.6749	3.7342	3.61	3.79	3.7040
German mark	2.0490	2.0821	2.01	2.12	2.0639
Pound sterling	5.9761	6.0746	5.87	6.15	6.0334
French franc	0.6112	0.6211	0.60	0.63	0.6155
Japanese yen (100)	2.5734	2.6150	2.52	2.66	2.6112
Dutch florin	1.8168	1.8462	1.78	1.88	1.8301
Swiss franc	2.4447	2.4842	2.40	2.52	2.4616
Swedish krona	0.4534	0.4608	0.44	0.47	0.4562
Norwegian krone	0.4776	0.4854	0.46	0.50	0.4806
Danish krone	0.5381	0.5468	0.52	0.56	0.5420
Finnish mark	0.6738	0.6847	0.66	0.70	0.6786
Canadian dollar	2.4030	2.4418	2.36	2.48	2.4253
Australian dollar	2.1754	2.2105	2.13	2.25	2.1946
S. African rand	0.5760	0.5853	0.52	0.59	0.5870
Belgian franc (10)	0.9935	1.0096	0.97	1.03	1.0008
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9120	2.9590	2.86	3.01	2.9332
Italian lira (1000)	2.0766	2.1103	2.04	2.14	2.0919
Jordanian dinar	5.1649	5.2483	5.07	5.45	5.2041
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.05	1.14	1.1297
ECU	4.0422	4.1074	—	—	4.0713
Irish punt	5.1411	5.2241	5.05	5.30	5.1723
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4147	2.4537	2.37	2.49	2.4320

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Tel Aviv

Stocks closed mixed, with a decline in Bezeq on speculation it will post a lower-than-expected second-quarter profit, offsetting a gain in foodmaker Osem.

Bezeq shares fell 4.07 percent to NIS 12.02 shekels, while Osem rose 4.06% to NIS 19.46. The Maof Index of 25 largest companies fell 0.24% to close at 330.71.

Bezeq is expected on Sunday to report a second-quarter profit of NIS 141 million, up from a loss of NIS 565m. a year ago, according to three analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News. Concern the telephone company won't achieve this probably fueled the two-day decline in its shares, they said.

The results "could be less than what we expect because of the very strong competition in the international call market," said Boaz Leviatan, an analyst at Sahar Securities. Rivals Golden Lines and Barak both entered the market in the third quarter of 1997.

Shares in Osem, which earns 90 percent of its revenue locally, extended gains for the second day on optimism its profit won't be hurt by Asia's economic woes.

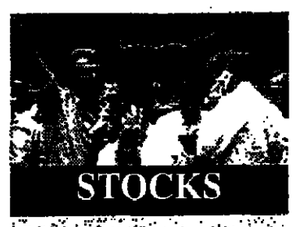
"It's a large food company which operates in Israel and suffers less [than other Israeli stocks] from the problems in Asia and Russia," said Ephraim Steinbruch, an analyst at Ofek Securities & Investment.

Concern Asia's recession reduced global demand and slowed profit growth of exporters has dragged down share price performance of several Israeli stocks in the past two weeks.

Last week, the company said second-quarter profit rose 19 percent as it sold new products and improved efficiency at newly acquired businesses.

Asia

Japan's benchmark stock index was little changed, as declines by chipmakers following a fall by their US counterparts were offset by gains by banks on signs the government will actively support the consolidation of the financial industry.



Maof 330.71 ▼ 0.24%
Dow Jones 8611 ▼ 0.95%
FTSE 5636.4▲ 1.1%
Nikkei 15391.41 ▼ 0.1%

NEC Corp. fell after the technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index slipped 0.7% in New York trading Wednesday.

Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. rose following a *Nihon Keizai* newspaper report authorities may spend as much as $6.9 billion to pave the way for a merger between the financially troubled lender and Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co.

"We've heard a lot of calls for a shake-out, but the possibility of a major lender going under is still alarming," said Koji Tada, a general manager at Towa Securities Co.'s equity department. "The market is breathing a sigh of *relief this merger will probably happen.*"

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index fell 14.93 points, or 0.10%, to 15,391.41. The broader Topix index of all companies listed on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange dropped 2.04 points, or 0.17%, to 1181.67.

LTCB jumped 19% on the bailout report, rising 9 yen to 56. Among other banks, Fuji Bank Ltd. gained 17 yen to 457, and Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. advanced 18 yen to 643 as investors said such a move promised to bring a modicum of *stability to Japan's fragile financial industry.*

"The prospect of a bailout is an obvious incentive to buy back shares in other institutions perceived as candidates for similar rescues," said Hitoshi Yajima, director of Tachibana Investment & Management Co.

(Bloomberg)

Wall Street

Stocks fell yesterday on the prospect that a weak global economy would slam US corporate earnings.

The US military strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan also touched off a flight to safety out of stocks and into bonds.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended down 81.87 points, or nearly 1 percent, at 8,611.41.

In the broader market, declining issues beat advances 18 to 10 on active volume of 620 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 10.25 points to 1,832.44.

Fears of a devaluation of Venezuela's currency and a mounting financial crisis in Russia that has raised the specter of bank failures there shook Wall Street.

"There are more volatile elements in the brew, and they are just going to continue to roil the market for a while," said Jack Shaughnessy, chief investment strategist at Advest.

Yen to three-week high as Japan threatens to buy yen

The dollar fell a fourth day against the yen to a three-week low after a top Japanese official said the yen is weak enough to prompt the government to buy its currency with dollars.

"People are trying to get ahead of these warnings of intervention," said Roger Chapin, manager of foreign exchange at Banc One Corp. in Columbus, Ohio. "The time to intervene is when it's moving in your direction."

Haruhiko Kuroda, director-general of the Finance Ministry's international bureau, said the yen – which has rallied about 4 percent since it reached an eight-year low of 147.66 yen Aug. 11 – is still too weak and "should be further corrected."

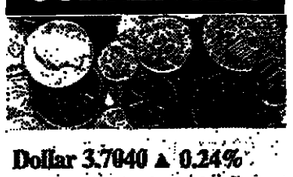
Kuroda said Japan will sell dollars "at the appropriate time as necessary," a comment repeated by Japanese officials almost daily the last week. The yen is down 8% against the US currency this year.

The dollar fell as low as 141.42 yen, its biggest drop since June 17, when the US and Japan jointly sold dollars to boost the yen. The dollar was at 142.02 yen, down from 143.85 Wednesday in New York. The US currency was little changed against the mark at 1.7985 marks from 1.7979.

The dollar's drop accelerated after it fell below 142 yen, triggering automatic orders to buy the yen, traders said.

Yesterday's comments from Kuroda bolster growing speculation that Japan is poised to buy yen. Eisuke Sakakibara, vice finance minister for international affairs, Wednesday said "the time for Japan to intervene to push up the yen is near."

Sakakibara, who is attending a seminar in Colorado this week, said he will contact US Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers during his stay. Even though Sakakibara didn't say what he would discuss with Summers, his remarks boosted talk that Japan may ask the US also to sell dollars for yen, though.



Dollar 3.7040 ▲ 0.24%
Basket 3.442 ▲ 0.46%
Mark 2.0639 ▲ 0.64%
Sterling 6.0334 ▲ 0.84%

The June 17 intervention helped shave 13 yen off the dollar's value, though the US currency regained those losses in the following weeks.

Traders are paying close attention to the Japanese government's actions to clean-up the banking system, burdened with an estimated $550 billion of problem loans.

The government may spend as much as 1 trillion yen ($7 billion) to pave the way for a merger between the financially troubled Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. and Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co., the Nihon Keizai newspaper said without citing sources. Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi denied the government is considering a capital injection into LTCB.

"The Japanese aren't taking the hard decisions and aren't shutting down the banks, just merging them," said Peter Von Maydell, a currency strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston in London, who expects the dollar to rise to 155 yen by year-end.

"Essentially their policy is unchanged." Meantime, Japan said today that its trade surplus rose 27.9% in July from June, to 1.344 trillion yen. Exports rose 3.2% while imports fell 4.6%. The import decline was the seventh in the last 10 months.

"Fundamentally nothing much has changed," said Paul Read, who helps oversee about $16 billion at Perpetual Asset Management in Henley-on-Thames, England. "It's hard to see why we should be buying yen. The banking and economic crisis really leads you to think that the yen should be weaker." He sees the yen declining to 150 per dollar in

Base metals rise on stronger yen

Precious-metals

Gold for December delivery rose as much as $2.90, or 1 percent, to $287.50 an ounce on Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. The US dollar fell to a three-week low against the Japanese yen after Haruhiko Kuroda, director-general of Japan's Finance Ministry's international bureau, said Japan may buy yen and sell dollars.

A weaker US currency makes dollar-priced gold cheaper for overseas consumers and investors and could lead to stronger demand. Japan is the world's seventh- largest gold consumer, according to Gold Fields Mineral Services Ltd., a London-based research group.

Oil

Crude oil for September delivery was unchanged in early trading at $13.16 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Traders area waiting for further evidence that producer cutbacks are eating into ample stockpiles, with the September in its last day of trading. US crude inventories unexpectedly fell 0.3% last week, according to a report issued after trading Tuesday by the American Petroleum Institute.

Gasoline demand soared to a record 9.48 million barrels a day, API figures suggested, though traders said the boost comes too late in the summer driving season, which ends in a few weeks.

Gasoline stockpiles still are 12% higher than a year ago.



Gold $285.05 ▲ 1.7%
Crude Oil $12.33 ▲ 0.6%
CRB 202.9 ▲ 0.37%

Natural gas for September delivery was little changed in early trading at $1.93 per million British thermal units, up 1.3 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The American Gas Association reported after trading Wednesday that gas storage rose 76 billion cubic feet, or 3.1%, last week.

That was more than the increase of 67 billion cubic feet expected by analysts before the report. The increase left gas supplies in storage 23% higher than a year earlier, with inventories at 80% of capacity.

Others

Base metals rose amid expectations that the stronger yen may encourage increased demand in Japan, one of the world's largest metals buyers. The benchmark three-month copper forward contract rose as much as $27, or 1.6%, to $1,664 a metric ton, its highest in 12 days.

Aluminum for three-month delivery rose as much as $21.50, or 1.6%, to $1,354 a ton, its highest price in three weeks. Three-month nickel surged as much as $190, or 4.6%, to $4,290 a ton, also the highest in three weeks. The yen rose for a fourth day against the dollar, reaching its highest in three weeks. A stronger yen makes it cheaper for consumers in Japan to buy base metals that are traded in dollars.

Cocoa for December delivery rose as much as 9 pounds ($5.53) to 1,092 pounds a metric ton on expectations of a shortage of good quality cocoa due to dry weather in the Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa grower. Low rainfall during the rainy season reduces yields on old cocoa trees and causes pods on young trees to mature more slowly.

(Bloomberg)

US bonds rise as Russia worries boost allure

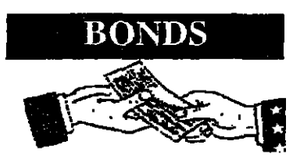
US bonds rose for the first time in four days amid speculation financial tumult in Russia and elsewhere will drive investors to Treasury securities as a refuge.

"This is more flight to quality," said Tony Crescenzi, chief bond strategist at Miller Tabak Hirsch & Co. International investors are doing most of the buying lately, he said, "usually in response to some debacle overseas."

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 9/32, or $2.81 per $1,000 bond, pushing its yield down about 2 basis points to 5.53 percent. The two-year note's yield fell 1 basis point to 5.31%.

Bonds climbed yesterday after Sergei Aleksashenko, a Russian central bank official, told Reuters Television that "it is quite clear that even some of the biggest, even of the top 20 Russian banks will fail."

Russia's difficulty meeting short-term debt obligations last week pushed the government to allow the ruble to devalue, and the nation's stocks and bonds have tumbled in recent days on concern financial troubles there are far from over.



US 30 -year T-bill yield
5.53 ▲ 0.2

Investors also shunned the securities of other emerging markets, such as Venezuela and Brazil, amid concern Russia's problems may spread, traders said.

To be sure, bonds may not rally much further without more evidence international events are slowing the US economy and will keep inflation low. Thirty-year bond yields are just above the Federal Reserve's 5.5% target for overnight lending between banks – a rate that was left unchanged at a Fed policy meeting on Tuesday.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia yesterday reported its index of manufacturing activity in the mid-Atlantic region rose to 13.3 in August, stronger than the 10.1 reading forecast by analysts. The prices paid index, a measure of inflation, fell to minus 10.6 from minus 2.1.

Bonds earlier fell as much as 13/32 as the dollar dropped to a three-week low against the yen amid concern Japan may sell dollars to boost its currency.

(Bloomberg)

US

Continued from Page 1

Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms, often an opponent of Clinton on foreign affairs, said: "Today's US military actions in Sudan and Afghanistan were clearly designed to strike at the heart of a terrorist network that has the blood of American citizens on its hands... It is my strong hope that these operations have been successful."

But Republican Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania questioned the timing.

"I'm not going to suggest ulterior motives... but I especially want to know the reason for doing it now. I want to know what the evidence was," he said.

Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Pentagon news conference the raid was not an assassination attempt against Bin Laden, but "an attack on his network of terrorist groups."

Shelton said the strikes were made at 1:30 p.m. EDT and were carried out simultaneously.

Cohen told the same news conference: "We recognize these strikes will not eliminate the problem. But our message is clear: There will be no sanctuary for terrorists and no limit to our resolve to defend American citizens and our interests – our ideals of democracy and law – against these cowardly attacks."

Clinton offered four reasons for the strikes: evidence that the groups were key players in the embassy bombings; a belief that these groups had carried out attacks against US citizens in the past; information that they planned further attacks; and the belief that the groups were seeking to acquire chemical and other dangerous weapons.

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Victim of an era

The voyeuristic culture that elevated Bill Clinton has now tarnished his legacy, perhaps irrevocably. Josh Getlin takes the long view of the Lewinsky scandal

If you ask historians to list a low point of Jimmy Carter's presidency, some mention the famous "malaise" speech, where Carter criticized America's lack of moral backbone.

It was a defining moment that helped frame his troubled legacy, yet few remember that on the night Carter gave the televised speech, his poll ratings actually shot up 10 percent.

"In judging a president, there is a considerable world of difference between the long view of history and the volatility of the political moment," said historian Douglas Brinkley.

And so it is with Bill Clinton.

Beyond the turmoil of snap polls and daily headlines, some prominent American historians believe this president's legacy has been permanently tarnished by his handling of the Monica Lewinsky scandal. They generally agree that he faces long odds of resurrecting his standing enough to be judged a highly or even moderately successful chief executive.

"He will be seen as a great American tragedy, and his White House speech [Monday] night was the point of no return," said Brinkley, who has written a biography of Carter. "Bill Clinton will be remembered as a baby boomer who was constantly mired in personal scandal, and who never lived up to expectations."

It's not merely the scandal, said Robert Dallek, biographer of Lyndon B. Johnson:

"The man shows himself to be of weak character. As we saw [Monday] night, he dissembles, he's self-serving; his speech was more combative than contrite."

While future analysts may give Clinton high marks for managing the economy, that is no guarantee of immortality, Brinkley added. Balancing the budget is important, "but this is not the reason why people visit presidential libraries."

HISTORIANS are loath to predict the future. Yet when it comes to Clinton, a rough consensus is forming: Regardless of how the Lewinsky affair plays out, they say, the president has too many troublesome character issues to surmount, and too few real accomplishments to be remembered as a great leader.

Even a supporter such as Arthur J. Schlesinger Jr. says Clinton's legacy is in jeopardy:

"It all depends on what he does, not what he says. Instead of going off to Martha's Vineyard, he should be gaining control of his demoralized administration. He should be making decisions about Ireland and the Middle East.

"Obviously what he said [Monday] night is going to tarnish his legacy," Schlesinger said. "But he can overcome these things if he begins fighting for real social change and reform. That's his very best hope."

Clinton's administration can point to significant initiatives, such as welfare reform, opening international trade and a more ideologically moderate Democratic party. But no one will ever confuse that with the vision of Johnson's Great Society or Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, according to Columbia University history professor Alan Brinkley (no relation to Douglas).

"While I don't believe the Lewinsky matter will constitute the final judgment of him, the scandals and a limited agenda will be what people remember," he added. "This is not someone who's going to wind up in the top ranks of presidents."

It's a mortifying prospect for an incumbent said to be keenly focused on his legacy. Yet, in some respects, Clinton may be as much a victim of his era as his own bad judgment.

"When people look back at the Clinton years, I think they'll see him as the epitome of a time when our nation became permanently scandalized," said UCLA history professor Joyce Appleby.

"It's a phenomenon that goes well beyond him, and reflects a time when many people have trouble squaring the issues of private lives with invasive public forums."

Clinton may have capitalized on the increasingly personal nature of media politics to get elected, she adds, but the same voyeuristic culture that elevated him has now tarnished his legacy, perhaps irrevocably, added Appleby.

"Nowadays, it's hard for anyone, 10-year-old children or aged nuns, to get away from this pervasive discussion of sexuality," she said. "And that's a historical phenomenon that is certainly much bigger than Clinton himself."

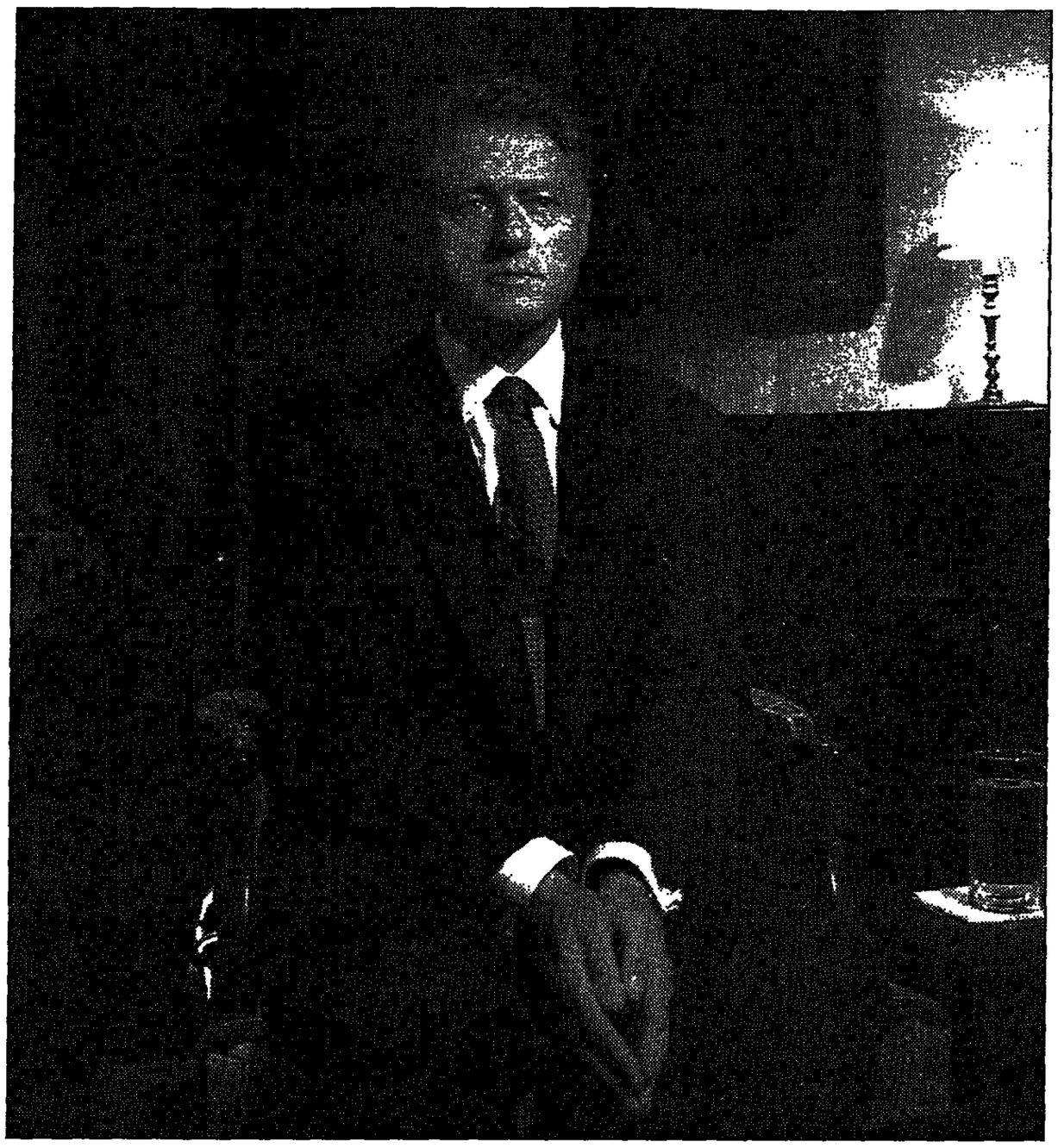
None of this will stop Clinton from burnishing his reputation after he leaves the White House – much as Carter has done and as Nixon tried to do, historians say.

Yet even here Clinton may face big obstacles, said Ohio State history professor Joan Hoff, author of *Nixon Reconsidered*.

Both Nixon and Clinton are seen as men with character flaws, she says, yet Nixon – for all his fabled drawbacks – stood for something:

"He took risks, he had some success. But what does Bill Clinton stand for? He has no strong inner compass, he wavers a lot, and that's not much to build a legacy on."

(Los Angeles Times)



Clinton will likely be seen as a great American tragedy, says historian Douglas Brinkley. (AP)

Opportunity lost, and further trouble gained

While Democrats assess the damage caused by President Clinton's speech this week, Clinton aides speculate worriedly about the meaning of the silence emanating from Capitol Hill. Dan Balz reports from Washington

President Clinton's speech on Monday night was increasingly being seen by Democrats this week as a political failure that has unleashed a torrent of anger among some of the president's most loyal supporters and created problems no one at the White House anticipated.

"It's not only opportunity lost, it's additional troubles gained," a former administration official said. "If one of your goals has to be to try to bring this to closure in some reasonable time frame, the opportunity was there Monday night and was lost."

The litany of problems includes an emboldened Republican Party determined to see the investigation through to the end, a Democratic Party for now deflated and demoralized by a Clinton performance that fell far short of their expectations, editorial opinion from newspapers across the country that has been extremely harsh in condemning Clinton's speech; a White House staff whose credibility has been compromised for the battles ahead, and the threat of further problems from Kenneth Starr's investigation, now in its final stages.

Some Democrats attributed part of the underwhelming public response from Capitol Hill to the fact that most lawmakers are on vacation or in their home states, and have not felt the need to say much. These lawmakers, they said, will be testing opinion at home. If Clinton's approval ratings remain strong – as they have so far this week – Democrats will quickly rally behind him.

They also predicted that, unless Starr's report provides convincing evidence of obstruction of justice by the president, many lawmakers will call for the House to take no action against the president, if for no other reason than to show a united front in the midterm elections.

"If it's about sex, they're free to condemn it," one Democratic strategist said.

BUT a former administration official said the principal reason Democrats have reacted the way they have is that they have been burned before by Clinton, and worry about what lies ahead.

"They're not sure everything is out," he said. "They don't believe there's been this purging process. They're afraid."

A congressional Democrat said, "Members were lied to for seven months, and are not happy about it. They're not just going to take the talking points from [the White House]."

One Democrat who worked in the past two presidential campaigns said Clinton's tenuous relationships on Capitol Hill have contributed to the weak reaction.

"No one's ever stuck up for him," this Democrat said. "Clinton doesn't come from there. He doesn't have deep roots there." He called the reaction from Congress "worrisome."

Democrats fear the president's speech makes it more likely that the Starr investigation will overwhelm any other message they hope to deliver during the fall campaign – the opposite of what they had hoped and the White House intended.

AS the White House scrambled for advice on how to contain the damaging fallout from the nationally televised address, another prominent Democrat complained about Clinton's performance.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., called the speech "not adequate" because Clinton failed to apologize for his relationship with former intern Monica S. Lewinsky and attacked independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr.

"What were we doing hearing about the special prosecutor?" Moynihan said to an Albany, N.Y., radio station.

Moynihan's comments came a day after such Democrats as Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle, D-S.D., House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., registered their disapproval of what Clinton did with Lewinsky or how he explained it on Monday night. That same day, Rep. Paul McHale, D-Pa., urged Clinton to resign.

With some exceptions such as Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, and Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who have been steadfast in their defense of Clinton, Democratic lawmakers have been tentative to defensive in their assessments of Clinton's speech, while expressing clear disapproval of his relationship with Lewinsky.

Others have been missing in action. Such prominent elected officials as Sens. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV, D-W-Va., Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and John Kerry, D-Mass., have made no comment on the president's speech. Aides said they were on vacation and not reachable.

Many Democrats have issued written statements, and the few who have ventured onto national television to try to defend the president have ended up making comments critical of him as well.

One of those was Rep. Vic Fazio, D-Calif., who spoke with Clinton after Monday's speech.

On CNN's *Larry King Live* Tuesday, Fazio said, "I'm not disappointed" with Clinton's speech and said further pursuit of the investigation by the independent counsel represented "a kind of partisan vendetta."

But Fazio said he was "disappointed in my president" and frustrated that the issue had diverted attention from issues Democrats hoped to use in their fall campaigns.

"The follow-up [questions] on this are just deadly," one Democratic strategist said in explaining why Democratic lawmakers may be more comfortable with written statements right now.

THE political reaction to the president's speech was far different from anything White House officials anticipated. With overnight polls showing the president's approval rating holding strong and reports from focus groups showing a good response to what Clinton had to say, they were caught off guard by the response from Capitol Hill.

Although some Republicans called for Clinton to resign this week, most GOP leaders cautioned their colleagues to wait until Starr reports to Congress before they recommend a course of action. Most Americans still oppose impeachment, according to polls.

Still, some members have quietly begun floating the possibility of issuing a censure or reprimand against Clinton for his conduct. "Republicans are discussing it as a possibility," said a Democratic congressional source.

Other lawmakers, however, may resist such a move.

Rep. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a member of the House Judiciary Committee, said his panel should decide to either investigate the charges in Starr's report as part of an impeachment inquiry, or drop the matter altogether.

"I don't think Congress has a role in spanking the president," Graham said.

Friends of the administration expressed anger that Clinton had allowed his anger at Starr to overrule a White House political team skilled in crisis management that wanted more contrition and less defiance.

"Closure wasn't achieved and some new troubles were unearthed on Monday night because he rejected the advice of people who have been loyal and protective of him successfully for six years and are some of the best at this stuff in the history of the presidency," said a former senior official.

Others simply said Clinton failed himself at one of the most critical moments of his presidency.

"Everybody was certain he would rise to the occasion, and for the first time he didn't do it," one former administration official said.

Said another veteran of Clinton's first term: "Everybody agrees he blew it... He could have killed this in January, or he could have killed it on Monday, and he didn't do it either time."

(The Washington Post)

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The self-assured Moussa Abu Roumi (left), the Islamic Movement's candidate for mayor of Tamra, talks to a supporter outside one of the town's mosques. (Jonathan Bloom)



'These elections frighten me,' says incumbent mayor Kamel Yassin of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Hadash). (Jonathan Bloom)

Running up the Islamic flag

With municipal elections just down the road, the Islamic Movement is making steady inroads in carefully targeted cities throughout Israel. Larry Derfner visits one of them to see the source of the movement's power

Amar Abu Roumi is 21, unemployed, nominally religious and a sure voter for the Islamic Movement when it makes its electoral debut in Tamra on November 10, municipal election day.

Asked this week why he supported the movement's list, Abu Roumi, a friendly fellow helping out at his brother's flower shop, explained: "They do so much for people here.

"A few months ago they opened a candy store, and hired three unemployed people to run it. They also give free classes to the unemployed – in Islam, but in other subjects, too."

Abu Roumi said he is certain the Islamic Movement will win the election in this northern city of 22,000, ousting the left-wing Hadash (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) from power. When that happens, Abu Roumi said with equal certainty, he will land a job.

"The leaders of the movement are educated. They know how to get things done," he said.

But it isn't just the Islamic Movement's social and economic efforts that make Abu Roumi a supporter; it is also the movement's promise to raise Tamra's "moral" level.

"They said that after the election, they're going to buy all the stores that sell alcohol and close them down," he noted.

And if the owners don't want to sell? "They said they're going to do it legally – nothing will be done by force. Everyone will get along like brothers."

THE Islamic Movement, which now runs a half-dozen Israeli Arab municipalities, its seat of power being Umm el-Fahm, is very interested in adding Tamra, midway between Haifa and Karmiel, near Shfaram, to its list in November.

"The Islamic Movement is the new, fresh, well-organized force in Israeli Arab politics," said Prof. Elie Rekhess, head of Tel Aviv University's Arab political studies program, sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. "It has a strong social message, and the potential to fill the vacuum left by [the declining appeal of] Hadash."

Rekhess said he doesn't see the Islamic Movement making a quantum leap in power in November, as it did in the 1989 municipal elections; rather, he said, the movement will probably consolidate its standing. But it is focusing with surgical precision on a few races where it stands a strong chance of gaining new strength.

"This is not a sign of weakness," noted Rekhess. "The Islamic Movement is very calculating. It examines the territory carefully and only runs where it feels highly confident. It thinks of the medium- and long-term, and is in no hurry."

A fairly common sight on the roofs of Tamra is the green flag – the Islamic Movement's symbol. Driving with local activists to one of its low-cost nursery schools, a visitor noticed one house with a blue flag.

"The blue flag is the symbol of one of the other parties in the election," explained Moussa Abu Roumi the Islamic list's candidate for mayor. The car slowed down, and the men inside called out a greeting to a man standing in front of the house.

Later, Abu Roumi (a *hamula*, or clan relation of Amar Abu Roumi's) got a call on his cellular phone. After hanging up, he said, happily, "That was the man in the house with the blue flag.

"He told me not to pay any attention to the flag, that it just got up there – I don't want to go into the tactics used by some of the other parties. But he said he was with us completely."

"The Islamic Movement is very calculating. It only runs where it feels highly confident. It thinks of the medium- and long-term, and is in no hurry"

— Prof. Elie Rekhess

ABU Roumi, 31, a doctoral student in medical sciences and political activist at the Hebrew University, estimated that 10% of Tamra's residents are devout adherents of the Islamic Movement, and another 20% – like his distant relative, Amar – are sympathizers.

Because there is such a long list of candidates and parties in the race, many of them representing different *hamulot*, 30% support would likely be enough to take over Tamra's city government. Hadash runs the coalition with only four out of 15 city council seats.

Abu Roumi listed some of the movement's good works for the city: paying school fees for poor children; donating computers and water coolers to public schools; providing 64 university scholarships in the last year; operating a cut-rate textbook store and candy store, and sponsoring a soccer team. The movement's two low-cost nursery schools (closed for the summer recess) each has about 75 children, and each has a long waiting list, Abu Roumi noted.

The money for all this comes in contributions from the faithful, collected at the movement's local charity office, continued Abu Roumi, noting that special causes demand special effort. "If somebody needs, let's say, a liver transplant that might cost $40,000 or $50,000, we'll stand outside the mosques on Friday and collect the money."

Tamra's would-be Islamic fundamentalist mayor is a quiet, polite man whose dark eyes become riveting when he's making an important point. He dresses in modern clothes and wears a short beard. Wa'el Diab, who heads the movement's Tamra branch but is not running in the election, is clean-shaven. Ultimately, Diab says, he hopes all Moslem men will wear beards.

"But we're not at that stage yet. Right now, I find that being clean-shaven is better for dealing with the public."

THE quiet assurance shown by Abu Roumi and Diab provided a stark contrast to the impression made by Tamra's current mayor, 65-year-old Kamel Yassin of Hadash. Taking time out from a contract negotiation and sitting behind his office desk, Yassin seemed feeble, beyond fatigue, despairing to the point of bewilderment about the coming election.

"These elections frighten me," he said. "People are going to just go crazy. That's the way I feel. The economic situation is bad, and people don't feel like giving, only taking."

"Going crazy" means, among other things, using violence, Yassin explained, like the riot that broke out after the 1984 local election results were announced.

Hadash's Abbas Hijazi, of the traditionally Hadash-aligned Hijazi clan, won for mayor that year, and dozens of men from rival anti-Hadash clans gathered and started throwing rocks.

"One of the rocks hit a police officer, and the police just charged and started beating people up," Yassin recalled.

He got the job of mayor a year ago, voted in by the city council upon the death of Hisham Abu Roumi. Local opponents of Hadash like to point out that Abu Roumi, who was first elected mayor on the Hadash ticket, later quit the party and went independent.

It's clear why the Islamic Movement has targeted Tamra – the ruling party's hold on power is so tenuous.

Yassin said he doesn't know if he's going to run for mayor in November (a Hadash councilman, Adel Abu Heija, has already declared his candidacy). He had nothing to say against the Islamic Movement, although he explained its popularity: "When economic times are bad, people turn to religion."

Asked what distinguished Tamra from other Israeli Arab cities, Yassin replied, "Tamra keeps going backward, not forward."

It was becoming easier and easier to understand the Islamic Movement's growth in this city.

ALONG with the rest of Israel's one million Arabs, Moussa Abu Roumi reacted angrily to this week's news of a report emanating from the Prime Minister's Office describing Israeli Arabs as "a potential security threat," and the Islamic Movement as the vanguard of such a trend.

The report, excerpts of which were published in *Ma'ariv*, said Israeli Arabs were becoming increasingly hostile to the Jewish state – partly because of their growing identification with the Palestinians, partly because the state hasn't done much to improve their low socioeconomic status.

The Islamic Movement is the most dangerous agitator of anti-Israeli sentiment in the community, the report contended, saying it "uses legitimate means in the hope of achieving illegitimate ends (including the creation of an Islamic state on the territory of the State of Israel)."

The Prime Minister's Office insisted that the prime minister did not view Israeli Arabs this way, and that he had not seen the report.

The report reflects an "extreme right-wing" approach, Abu Roumi said, one which seeks to strip Israeli Arabs of their rights as citizens.

As for the Islamic Movement, he said, "This country is going to have to learn to live with it, to stop thinking of it as a strategic threat, to accept that there is such a thing as a culture of Islam."

Despite what the report claimed, Abu Roumi said the movement has no plans, not even in the long run, to turn Israel into a state ruled according to Islamic law, in which Jews would be, at best, a "tolerated minority."

"If Bibi [Netanyahu] were to become convinced of the righteousness of Islam and turn Israel into an Islamic state that would be wonderful," he said sarcastically, "but we have to deal with reality as it is."

Abu Roumi insisted that the movement is non-violent and law-abiding, and that while it considers Zionism inherently discriminatory against Gentiles, it is only trying to improve Moslems' lives, not turn them into a rebel army.

Asked his opinion of Hamas, Abu Roumi replied: "Hamas is a liberation movement in the West Bank and Gaza. We don't agree with terror – but who created the conditions that caused the terror?"

He claimed Hamas would settle for a state in the West Bank and Gaza alone and let Israel live in peace within its pre-1967 borders, if only Israel agreed.

In manner and even in content, Abu Roumi sounded moderate, peaceable. But as an Islamic fundamentalist political leader, should he be believed?

THE Islamic Movement in Israel, replied Rekhess, is divided between "minimalists" – whose true goals are the ones outlined by Abu Roumi – and the "maximalists," whose true goals are the ones outlined in the report out of the Prime Minister's Office. It is extremely difficult, Rekhess added, to tell who is who.

Noting that the movement has not incited to violence, called for the overthrow of the Zionist state or given Israeli authorities any excuse at all to crack down on it, Rekhess continued: "Clearly the Islamic Movement is not actively plotting to realize any maximalist goals. But the $64,000 question is: If and when this growing force gathers more and more strength, will it be transformed into a strategic threat?"

The answer, Rekhess said, depends largely on whether the state, representing the Jewish majority, ends its traditional policy of "disastrous neglect of the Arab sector and its refusal to recognize that while Israel is a Jewish state, it is not exclusively Jewish."

Meanwhile, back at the flower shop, Amar Abu Roumi offered one other reason why he supported the Islamic Movement: "They're not like some other people here who, excuse me for using these words, say we should turn against the Jews. They don't say things like that."

He clipped off a rose and gave it to a visitor.

"For peace," he said.



A discount bookstore in Tamra owned and run by the Islamic Movement. It also runs low-cost nursery schools, provides university scholarships and sponsors a soccer team. (Jonathan Bloom)

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The tax man wears many disguises

Businessmen and human-rights activists say corrupt PA security officials are jailing alleged tax evaders and forcing them to pay 'back taxes' – essentially ransom – to win their freedom. But the PA never sees any of these 'taxes.' Steve Rodan reports



Ismael Bheiss, a Hebron area contractor, was arrested and tortured in a Jericho prison until he raised NIS 5,000 in cash for his release. (Brian Hendler)



Palestinian human rights activist Bassam Eid (left) discloses the extortion scheme. Victim Ibrahim Hussein Shawahin (right) was in prison for 11 months until he agreed to pay NIS 250,000 for his release. (Brian Hendler)

Ibrahim Mahmoud Shawahin, a businessman who sells Hebron stone for construction, was driving late one night in March from Jerusalem to his home in Yatta, near Hebron, when he was stopped at a Palestinian Authority roadblock in Bethlehem. Waiting for him were agents from the PA's feared Preventive Security Apparatus.

Shawahin recalls being taken to a nearby prison, where he was handcuffed and forced to stand facing a wall. Although by then it was past midnight, he wasn't allowed food or drink and was cursed and beaten by passing agents.

The following day, he was transferred to a prison in Hebron, where for the next 48 hours he was alternately interrogated, beaten and prevented from sleeping.

The PSA interrogators demanded money from Shawahin. They accused him of tax evasion and forging tax documents. The interrogators wanted confessions on each of these counts and they wanted the money paid immediately. They also demanded that he implicate other Hebron-area businessmen.

After two days, Shawahin recalls, he agreed to anything his interrogators wanted, "because I could not stand the torture anymore."

With his brother's help, he gave a PSA agent, Abd al-Hakim Abu Sneineh, NIS 10,000 and four promissory notes that totaled NIS 44,000. He was not given a receipt.

"They have taken my money and half of my business," he says. "Where am I going to get more money to pay them?"

Shawahin is far from alone. Palestinian human-rights activists and Palestinian sources agree that scores, perhaps hundreds, of businessmen in PA-controlled areas have been arrested, tortured and imprisoned until they won their freedom by paying thousands of shekels or Jordanian dinars to their jailers.

Their captors have ranged from any one of several PA security agencies to local prosecutors. The targets are often businessmen from the Hebron region, who work either in Israel or for Israeli companies.

Shawahin's cousin, Ibrahim Hussein Shawahin, was in prison for 11 months until he agreed to pay NIS 250,000 for his release. He said three days after he left prison he was told by civilian tax authorities that he owed only NIS 8,000. When he demanded the difference, he was re-arrested.

"We ask that an end be put to all [the arrests of businessmen by] these people in charge [of the security services]," says Ismael Bheiss, a Hebron area contractor who was arrested and tortured in a Jericho prison until he raised NIS 5,000 in cash for his release.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) has collected testimonies of 36 businessmen who echoed Shawahin's story. Some of them paid as much as NIS 250,000 to win their release. Others have been in jail for as long as two years.

They were neither prosecuted nor absolved of any charge once they handed over the required sums. Virtually all of them have pledged to pay much more to stay out of jail.

"This violates the law, the Palestinian constitution and simple human rights," Bassam Eid, director of the human-rights group, says.

"These forces steal public money in various ways and methods. The testimonies we received expose financial blackmail."

Eid agrees that the money collected never reaches the PA tax authorities. He has obtained documents that show the money collected from Shawahin and others ended up in secret accounts rather than with the government.

Currently, he says, the PA Finance Ministry says the PA security agencies have not transferred one shekel of at least NIS 7 million they've collected in the guise of taxes.

NO ONE likes the tax man, and Palestinians are no exception. In the PA-controlled areas, Palestinians pay income tax, sales tax and value added tax – the latter introduced by Israel during its rule of the West Bank and Gaza.

The PA has the right to amend tax laws in accordance with the economic agreements it signed with Israel in 1994 and has in some cases decreased taxes. VAT, however, is an exception, as reducing it would give unfair advantage to Palestinian goods and services over Israeli ones.

At first, VAT collection was under the domain of PA civilian authorities. As in Israel, VAT is an unpopular tax and many businessmen try to avoid paying the full amount required.

In September 1995, PA authorities launched campaigns to enforce VAT laws in Bethlehem – the scene of a tax revolt against Israel in 1989 – and opened numerous investigations. The result was severe tension with the Palestinian business community.

A month later, civilian investigators decided they needed help. They recruited the PSA, led by Col. Jibril Rajoub. PSA agents made arrests and conducted interrogations. They demanded huge sums of money.

Later, other authorities joined in. The General Intelligence service, headed by Col. Tawfiq Tirawi, made arrests and conducted interrogations.

"What happened was that the security agencies realized this was an excellent way of making money," a PA source familiar with the issue says. "They realized that [PA chief Yasser] Arafat was not going to give them any more tax money for salaries or for construction of headquarters and this was a way to raise the money."

In some cases, Eid says, enemies or rivals of security officials are locked up and accused of tax violations.

SAAD AHMAD Abu Yusef owns the Babel printing shop in the Hebron suburb of Halhoul. Married and father of three children, he was arrested by the General Intelligence service on July 13, 1996, and remained in prison until January 28, 1997. He says he was tortured during his time in Dhahiriya and Jericho prisons.

Abu Yusef was accused of not paying taxes but during the interrogation, investigators did not produce any evidence that he owed any money. He believes he was jailed because of a personal feud with GI security official Khaled Jabarin. In the end, Abu Yusef spent more than six months in jail and paid NIS 5,000 for his release.

The GI and other security agencies have generally focused on VAT fraud, rather than income taxes, which continue to be handled mostly by the civilian authorities. But there are exceptions.

In July 1996, Jabarin summoned Hebron businessman Ruhi Abed al-Shakur Atrash from Hebron's Wadi al-Harieh village. He arrived at the General Intelligence center in Dhahiriya on July 25, and Jabarin accused him of owing income taxes.

Atrash recalls responding that he wanted to be transferred to an income-tax investigator. Jabarin was said to have responded that income-tax employees are susceptible to blackmail and that he was handling these cases for now.

Atrash was placed on a chair, his hands tied behind his back and a nylon bag over his head. His cell was brutally hot without water or electricity. He was denied visits from his family or attorney. He later joined a group of 13 other prisoners and began a hunger strike to protest prison conditions.

More than five months after his arrest, Atrash was released. His family paid NIS 100,000. One month later, he was again summoned to an interrogation and asked for another NIS 200,000. He refused to meet his interrogators or pay any more money.

"Today, I do not dare sleep in my house," he says.

SECURITY officials are not the only ones forcing Palestinian businessmen to pay huge sums of money for their freedom.

Working closely with the security officials, according to a report completed by the PHRMG, is the prosecutor of the Jericho district, Ibrahim Amer. Testimonies obtained by the human-rights group assert that Amer is involved in many of the interrogations, determining the amount to be paid by those imprisoned and receiving the money before he decides on their release.

Walid Ibrahim Ahmed Tumar was summoned for an interrogation on July 2, 1996, and was soon transferred to the GI office in Hebron where he was questioned by Jabarin.

On July 30, Tumar recalls in an affidavit to PHRMG, he was visited by Amer in prison. He ordered Tumar to write everything about his relations with the tax authorities.

For nearly a year, Tumar languished in prison. On May 27, 1997, he was taken to Amer and told that his tax bill was NIS 570,000. Tumar demanded a trial.

"He refused and told me that there are no courts of the sort," Tumar recalls, "and he also said that if he took me to court, I will spend the rest of my life in prison."

But Amer was not averse to negotiating. Tumar's father arrived at a deal where he would pay Amer NIS 40,000 in cash and the rest in two checks – one for NIS 240,000 and the other for NIS 290,000. No receipt was given.

Jamal Mohammed Hussein Shuruf from the Nuba village in the Hebron region recalls being imprisoned by the General Intelligence in July 1996. A year later, Amer demanded NIS 400,000. Shuruf raised NIS 25,000 in cash and the rest in checks. Amer cashed only one check and demanded cash for the others he received from Shuruf.

"I told him where I am going to get the money to pay him when I just got out of prison?" Shuruf says. "I am running away from my own home, afraid of Amer."

ISSAM Fayeq Hassan Abu Ayyash from Beit Umar was lucky. He, too, was arrested by the GI and then taken to Amer, who demanded NIS 375,000, one-third of it in cash.

Abu Ayyash convinced Amer that he couldn't pay and his case was transferred to the PA's VAT and customs department in Hebron. The office investigated and determined that Abu Ayyash owed only NIS 32,000.

Eid says Abu Ayyash's was the only case that Amer and the security services allowed to be transferred to PA tax authorities. He says the Abu Ayyash example proves how the security services do not investigate tax violations but merely demand as much as they can get from imprisoned businessmen.

What Eid and the businessmen are certain of is that the money never reached the tax authorities.

Amer would demand that checks be made out to one of two Bank of Palestine accounts – 60099150893 or 60099150892. The PHRMG investigation determined that these two nameless accounts do not belong to either the PA Finance Ministry or the tax authorities.

Amer could not be reached for a reaction. But other officials did agree to talk.

Jibrin Bakri, head of the PSA office in Hebron, says those arrested were part of a ring of forgers of tax documents as well as Israeli collaborators, echoing accusations made by other security officials in Hebron, including regional police chief Col. Tareq Zaid.

Nasser Tahboub, head of the PA Customs Directorate, acknowledges that tax authorities have asked the security forces for help collecting money.

But, he adds, "There were violations committed while fixing some of these cases. In some of them, we were not even informed of the sums of money requested."

The PA is finding it difficult to ignore the wave of resentment building in Hebron as well in Nablus, where businessmen have also complained of harassment and imprisonment by Palestinian security forces.

In an April 2 article entitled "Do you pay more taxes than you are supposed to?" the PA-aligned *Al-Ayyam* daily reported on numerous complains of high income taxes in several districts and called for a fair and just tax policy.

The article also said the high tax rate is harming Palestinian development.

The newspaper acknowledged the involvement of the General Intelligence in tax collection and suggested that this should stop. *Al-Ayyam*, however, does not mention the far more powerful PSA or the campaign to impose huge VAT payments on businessmen.

THE Palestinian Legislative Council is preparing to get into the act. Hatem Abdul-Khader, a member of the PLC Public Monitoring Committee, says the committee has launched a probe and will present a report to the PLC at the end of its summer holiday.

"In my opinion, there is a basis for these complaints," he says. "It is the job of the Finance Ministry alone to collect taxes."

But PA sources and Palestinian analysts doubt whether PA chief Yasser Arafat could summon the will to reverse the tide against the arbitrary imprisonment and torture of businessmen. They point to two trends that suggest the VAT campaign will continue.

One trend, they say, is the domination of Palestinian society by the security forces. Rajoub and Tirawi are involved in virtually every major dispute and their representatives are involved in many areas of civilian life.

For example, Rajoub earlier this month helped mediate a refusal by the *Al-Quds* daily to publish advertisements ordered by PA Information Minister Yasser Abbed Rabbo.

Another example: The Arab Journalists Association is preparing for elections in October. The deputy head of the union is Tawfiq Abu Khussa, a senior official in Arafat's personal guard, Force 17. Abu Khussa has waged a campaign to expel journalists who have met with their Israeli colleagues. If that doesn't ensure a victory for his candidates, the elections will be held in Cairo.

The second problem is that the PA can simply not pay its bills.

The 1998 budget was set at $1.9 billion. About $900 million is meant to come from taxes and other levies, and the rest from the donor nations.

Of the amount to come from local sources, two-thirds is from taxes and national insurance payments levied on Palestinian laborers working in Israel. This is money that Israel collects and transfers to the PA.

In other words, out of a $1.9 billion budget, the PA itself expects to raise only $300 million from the more than 2 million people living in the PA-controlled areas.

The donor nations are upset and PA and Israeli sources say that they will shell out only half of what they've pledged this year.

The result is that the PA can't pay its employees. The authority pays its police and security forces first and encourages them to moonlight or raise what they call "donations" from wealthy Palestinians.

Palestinian sources report that private security companies offering Mafia-style protection are rampant in major Palestinian cities.

Today, Shawahin, the stone dealer in Yatta, says he lives in fear of another arrest and more torture. But he is adamant. He will not pay one more penny without an open trial, proof of the allegations against him and a conviction.

"I told them I would pay them but I stopped payment," Shawahin says. "I'm not giving them one more penny. Whoever took this money put it in his own pocket."

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

'We will continue to fight tax evaders'

Lt.-Col. Jibril Bakri, head of the Preventive Security Apparatus in Hebron, says those arrested in the region for tax fraud were suspected of forging receipts to avoid paying VAT. He says last month three suspected tax forging rings were smashed.

Bakri does not call these people businessmen.

"The directives from the chairman [Palestinian Authority chief Yasser Arafat] are to follow the tax-receipts forgers, who cause great losses to the PA," he says. "They are well known to everybody as corrupt and those people shouldn't get any help or support from anybody."

Bakri says the forgery rings have links with similar criminals in Israel. One of the suspects, he says, has an Israeli identity card.

He says the PSA will continue its campaign against suspected tax evaders.

"The interrogation of these people was done in the presence of the tax investigators," he says.

Bakri is critical of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group's report on businessmen imprisoned by the security forces. He says one of those interviewed by the group headed by Bassem Eid forged a document.

He says that in contrast to what Eid and the businessmen assert, the cases of some of the suspects have been transferred to the civilian prosecutor. He dismisses the role of Jericho prosecutor Ibrahim Amer, saying he is an employee following orders. Amer could not be reached for comment.

Bakri accuses Eid of consorting with automobile thieves to obtain information for this report.

"Bassam Eid went to Yatta near Hebron to eat a festive meal with the car thieves and coordinate with them what he can do to protect them," he says.

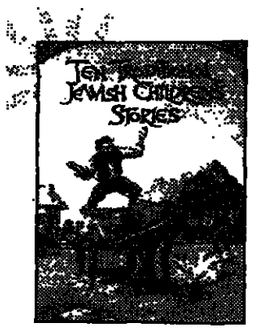
Eid dismisses Bakri's assertions as ludicrous. – *S.R.*



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BKS 149 CHILDREN

Israel's mix of need, greed and conscience

Alarmist warnings of 300,000 illegal foreign workers in Israel were wrong, Eric Cohen tells Abraham Rabinovich. And the country has no 'foreign settler' problem, adds the professor, who has completed the first academic study of the phenomenon here



Police arrest illegal foreign workers in Tel Aviv last month: Some have said it is the employer who should be arrested, not the worker. (Israel Sun)

Scene 1: Bounty hunters in Israel swoop down on fugitive foreign workers and cart them back to their taskmasters.

Scene 2: Government employees drive foreign workers, at the workers' request, halfway across the country so that they can draw their abundant earnings from the bank before making an all-expenses-paid flight home.

Same workers. Same country.

These contrasting scenes from real life illustrate the ambivalent nature of our attitude – a mix of need, greed and conscience – toward those whom we have invited into our midst to do the work we ourselves prefer not to do.

The import of foreign workers seemed at first a happy solution to the security threat posed by Palestinian workers, whom they replaced. In time, however, the foreign workers themselves came to be seen as a threat to the Jewish character of the state. As some saw it, they would be doing to Israel what Israel was doing in the territories – creating a new demographic reality.

Prof. Eric Cohen of the Hebrew University, who has carried out the first academic study of foreign workers in Israel, together with Ze'ev Rosenhek, suggests that the problem is less dramatic than that.

The number of illegal foreign workers in Israel as of 1996 was not 300,000, as some officials mooted in alarmist warnings, but 95,000, he says, while legal workers last year totalled 85,000. (The current estimate by the Labor Ministry is 75,000 legal workers, down 30 percent from two years ago, and 90,000 illegals.)

Even the illegals who have been here for years without a permit do not constitute a permanent presence like millions of Turks and other Gastarbeiter have become in Western Europe, says Cohen.

"The indicator that they are not settlers is that almost all of those with children send them back home when they reach school age," he notes. "You don't have teenagers in any significant numbers."

Those children of foreign workers who remain here at school age are enrolled in schools like the Bialik School in central Tel Aviv, which try to provide special programs for foreign youngsters.

While there may not be a foreign "settler" problem in the sense of numerous individuals who take root, Israel now has ongoing expatriate communities, says sociologist Cohen.

"These are groups which stay on here for a long time even though there is a turnover of their population," he says. Some of these "permanently temporary" foreign groups have their own institutions, like social organizations and churches.

"There is even a soccer league with 14 teams divided along national lines that has games on Sunday in the Yarkon Park. The Nigerians were champions last year."

Some ethnic groups have associations with an elected leadership which deal with communal interests, and stay in touch with their respective embassies.

A SATURDAY visit to the area between the new and old central bus stations in Tel Aviv provides a glimpse of the exotic new subsociety that has been created here since foreign workers began to be imported in numbers in 1992 in the wake of terrorist bomb explosions.

Thousands of foreign workers can be seen enjoying the Shabbat leisure in the station area, which caters specifically to their needs. Workers, mostly Romanian, sit at cafes drinking beer, chatting and watching video programs.

Colorfully dressed African men and women emerge from a church service in a building basement, some pushing prams. Philippine women chat at a street corner. There are hole-in-the-wall shops offering overseas telephone connections, laundry service and peep shows. The graffiti is in foreign tongues. Hardly an Israeli is to be seen in the area, adding to the sense of "abroad."

What differentiates Israel from most other countries importing foreign workers, says Cohen, is that permits are issued not to the worker but to the employer. The intention is to ensure that workers remain in specific sectors and not join the general workforce in competition with Israeli labor.

"This arrangement creates a situation in which the foreign worker is actually indentured," says Cohen. "It opens huge possibilities of exploitation."

The workers hand over their passports to their employers for the duration of their stay. Should they leave him before termination of their contract, whether for a better job or because their employer has not paid them, they are immediately rendered "illegal" and subject to expulsion from the country if caught.

A number of contractors have hired bounty hunters, says Cohen, to track down such "runaways" and return them to their employers so as to deter other workers from leaving. A new method introduced in Romania to ensure that workers do not break their contracts is to have them mortgage their homes to the local employment agency hiring them before being accepted for work in Israel. Cohen says that, to his knowledge, no such home has yet been confiscated.

THE THREE principal sectors in which permits are issued for foreign workers are construction, agriculture and geriatric services. These are labor-intensive fields which do not attract sufficient Israelis, including Israeli Arabs, and for which "externalized" solutions, such as the import of prefabricated houses or the export of the elderly, are either uneconomical or not feasible.

By contrast, when computer companies sought permission to bring in thousands of Indian programmers, the government refused. The Indians remained in India, working with Israeli firms via modem.

For the foreign worker, a job in Israel is a means of amassing savings he or she could never achieve at home.

"Agricultural workers average about $400 a month," says Cohen, "construction workers a bit less, Philippine women a bit more. At home they would earn $100 or less."

Illegals fall into three categories: Some arrived in Israel as tourists and remained to work, mainly Africans – particularly from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Zaire – and South Americans. Most long-term illegals come from this group.

A second category is made up of workers who overstayed their permits. Philippine women are high in this category.

The third consists of people who left their employers before the end of their contracts because of nonpayment, bad living conditions, or because they had found a better-paying job. Romanian construction workers are predominant in this group.

Although they leave their passports in the hands of the employers who brought them over, they can acquire a laissez-passer from their embassy in Tel Aviv when they want to return home.

THE EXTENT to which employers cheat their workers of pay or otherwise exploit them is a subject of debate between the head of the Foreign Workers' Authority in the Labor Ministry, Ephraim Cohen, and Hanna Zohar, director of Kav La'oved ("Line to the Workers"), a humanitarian organization offering help to foreign workers.

According to Zohar, exploitation is widespread, both in crowded living conditions and underpayment. Some 40% of workers do not fully receive the pay they are entitled to, including overtime, she says. About 20%, she says, do not receive pay at all for their last months. Fully 90% do not receive other benefits they are entitled to under Israeli law, such as vacation pay and clothing allowance.

"The government is responsible," says Zohar. "It does not permit a worker legally to move to another job, making him, in effect, a slave."

Cohen says that his organization sees to it that virtually no foreign worker returns home without his full pay. The authority's inspectors visit workplaces to ensure that the workers receive decent accommodation and that they are receiving at least the minimum wages required by Israeli law, higher pay for overtime and health insurance.

Increasingly, the authority's efforts have focused on expelling illegal workers.

"I prefer the term 'returning them home' rather than expelling," says Cohen. "We don't use violence or handcuffs."

He acknowledges, however, that in addition to detention of illegals by his inspectors at work sites, the police occasionally stage predawn raids of workers' apartments. This, he says, is confined to workers engaged in criminal activity, including drugs and prostitution.

"The foreign worker is actually indentured, opening huge possibilities of exploitation"

– Prof. Eric Cohen

The way home for illegals includes a stopover in Ma'asiyahu Prison for several days until their departure from Ben-Gurion Airport can be arranged.

During this period, says Cohen, his staff goes with the workers to their employers to ensure that they are paid what is owed them.

"Almost all the employers pay to the last shekel," says Cohen. "If a foreign worker is allowed to go home without being fully paid we have made an enemy of Israel. It is something we cannot permit."

Zohar is dismissive. "He may want it to be like that," she says of Cohen, "but in fact it is not like that."

After detention, the workers are driven to their places of residence to gather their possessions, says Cohen, and taken to the bank to collect their savings. In one instance, he says, an inspector drove a group of African illegals from the prison in Ramle to Eilat in order to permit them to take their money out of the bank there.

Those employing illegals are slapped with a fine of NIS 5,000 per employee, says Cohen, and obliged to pay for the workers' flight home. In cases where the illegals are unemployed, the ministry itself pays for their air ticket, says Cohen, "even though it should be their embassy that pays."

Zohar proposes a different solution to the problem of illegal workers. "Instead of arresting the worker, they should arrest the employer. That would put a stop to it."

THE repatriation of foreign workers began in 1996, when 950 were sent home. The number increased to 4,350 last year, and is to reach 6,000 this year. With the number of Israeli unemployed now topping 200,000, the government recently allocated additional funds for speeding up the repatriation of foreign workers.

Altogether, the percentage that foreign workers constitute of the Israeli workforce has dropped from 8-9% in 1996, says Cohen, to about 6% today. It is the government's objective to reduce this to 1% by 2002.

"Our policy is to favor not only Israeli workers over foreign workers but also to favor Palestinians," says Cohen. "Each month we are increasing the number of Palestinians who work here. This is government policy. These are the people with whom we are to live in peace."

However, Prof. Eric Cohen believes the motivation of the two ministers who are primarily responsible for repatriation – *Labor Minister Eli Yishai and* Interior Minister Eli Suissa, both of Shas – is not primarily concern that the foreigners will displace Israeli workers, but concern that they will take Israeli mates.

"They fear miscegenation," he said of the two religious ministers. The professor said he had no statistics on the number of foreign workers who have married Israelis. "But whatever it is, it's far smaller than the 200,000 non-Jewish immigrants who have entered from the former Soviet Union."

Prof. Cohen launched the study into the foreign worker phenomenon early in 1995. "I realized something was happening, and that nobody was looking into it."

With sponsorship from the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies and Israel Foundation Trustees, Cohen and Rosenhek, leading a team of anthropologists and sociologists, explored the institutional structure of the Israeli labor market, including employer organizations and government and municipal agencies. They also closely observed the workers in their ethnic diversity, through individual case studies and by examining their communal way of life. The researchers made frequent visits to the workers' places of leisure and worship.

"I've been to many of the churches they attend," says Cohen. "To see their transformation – the "smoking" [jackets] they wear, the serious display of bourgeois formality, is unbelievable." The results of the study are to be published in a book.

The trend of reducing the number of foreign workers and increasing the number of Palestinian workers will be sorely tested should there be an outbreak of terrorism once again.

Says Prof. Cohen: "We don't want foreign workers. But we can't make do without them. That is the paradox."



Only labor-intensive sectors shunned by locals – like agriculture, construction and geriatric services – may employ foreign workers. (Moshe Shai)

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When 'being friendly' is breaking the law

When the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law goes into effect next month, employers become responsible for preventing unwanted advances. Allison Kaplan Sommer looks at whether the law is likely to work, or, as one MK charged, will 'foul up relations between men and women in the workplace'



For years, the Israeli Management Institute has been trying to hold workshops on sexual harassment for corporate executives, but they were repeatedly canceled due to lack of interest.

Times have changed. At the end of last month, a day-long seminar on the topic held by the institute drew an overflow crowd. Top managers of the country's largest companies attended, bringing along their human resources people and their legal advisers, all eager to learn precisely what sexual harassment was and how it could be prevented.

The interest was not the result of a spontaneous surge of feminist awareness on the part of Israeli corporate culture. It was an act of self-preservation, a clear response to the looming date of September 20, when the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law, passed by the Knesset in March, goes into effect.

The most wide-ranging legislation of its kind in the world, the law makes it the clear responsibility of employers to make their workers aware that sexual harassment is forbidden within their organizations, and to respond effectively to complaints of such behavior.

If a company does not take prescribed steps when such incidents occur, it will be considered no less legally responsible for the harassment than the individual perpetrator, and can be sued.

"The executives in the seminar were extremely alert and asked a lot of questions," reports Dr. Orit Kamir, the Hebrew University lecturer who co-authored the Knesset legislation and participated in the institute workshop.

"They even wanted to organize follow-up sessions. Clearly, employers are waking up to this issue, which is the very reason we *initiated this law.*

"Our purpose was never an eagerness to see people imprisoned or fined, but to raise awareness of the problem of sexual harassment and prevent its occurrence."

KAMIR says she sensed a great deal of concern from the managers, most of whom were men (the law applies equally to men and women, though the vast majority of complaints are by women against men).

The executives questioned their own ability to carry out their new responsibilities. If they don't know what the proper behavioral norms are themselves, they asked her, how can they explain them to their workers?

"They are very worried about not knowing what the boundaries are," Kamir said. "From men, I hear: Are they supposed to start guessing what offends women and doesn't? They express concern about women who appear to be fine with flirting in the office, or even encourage it, *then later claim they were offended.*"

Kamir said she reassured the nervous CEOs by explaining that, "On this point, our law is a lot more user-friendly for men than many other laws around the world. A major demand of the woman is that she make it as clear as she can that she isn't interested."

The exception to this rule is when a woman is under the direct authority of a man, in which case sexual propositions are considered harassment no matter what the response. Any boss who makes a move on his secretary, or any teacher who starts up with his student "is going to have to be aware that they are taking a major risk," Kamir warns.

To make the rules perfectly clear, guidelines for acceptable behavior between the sexes under the law and the procedures for dealing with harassment were clearly spelled out in non-legal language by the Justice and Labor and Social Affairs ministries. *These guidelines were* approved by the Knesset's Committee on the Status of Women on *August 5.*

By September 20, all companies with 25 or more workers must post these guidelines and establish an official channel for handling complaints.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told reporters on the day the guidelines were approved that the legislation represented nothing less than "a social revolution," declaring that it would be "a huge step forward in stopping the phenomenon of sexual harassment, which is a significant problem in Israel and does damage to the cause of human dignity."

THE government guidelines define sexual harassment as the following:

- Sexual blackmail, when an employer threatens to fire a worker *who rebuffs the boss's sexual* advances
- Touching an employee sexually without consent or exposing oneself;
- Repeated sexual invitations, after it becomes clear that they are unwanted. In a relationship where the "inviter" has direct authority over the "invitee," such repeated come-ons are considered harassment, even when there is consent.
- Repeated references to sexuality, when it is made clear they are undesired;
- Deprecatory remarks about someone's sex or sexual preferences, no matter what the response is.

Every employer must bring it to the attention of his or her workers that sexual harassment is forbidden, and supplementary educational programs to explain the regulations are *recommended.*

When a complaint of sexual harassment is made, the employer *must deal with it immediately.* Any business with more than 25 workers must appoint someone responsible for receiving such complaints and for clarifying the situation.

The responsible individual then reports to the employer. The employer must act within a week of receiving the information and begin an investigation.

Any delay must have a written explanation. Should the investigation find the charges of harassment true, steps must be taken to end the situation, whether it means warning the offender, or separating him/her from the victim – or, if that doesn't solve the problem, even firing the *offender.*

The harasser can also be taken to court, where the maximum penalty *is up to four years in* prison. The sentence would depend on the severity of the crime – how repeated it was, how aggravated, and how harmful to the victim.

In court, victims will be able to claim up to NIS 50,000 in damages against the harasser without having to prove that they suffered from the harassment. If someone seeks more than NIS 50,000, he or she will have to "document" the suffering.

If it is proven that the employer disregarded complaints about harassment, he would also be liable for up to NIS 50,000 in damages – although he wouldn't be in danger of going to jail.

COMPANIES and government agencies have been busy preparing *themselves since the law was* passed last spring. The IDF has produced a manual on the subject and a training film. The police, which is both an employer and an enforcer of the law, has distributed explanatory kits to its forces.

According to Yola Reitman, manager of the stewards department for El Al airlines, her company already has a framework, established some 18 months ago, which is similar to that recommended in the legislation.

She is the person within El Al who is designated to deal with sexual harassment complaints in any part of the company.

Reitman applauds the new law, and says that she has observed that simply sending out a message that a company takes sexual harassment seriously immediately changes behavior.

"The moment a company puts a person in authority in charge of sexual harassment, you are drawing a red line. *I think that in such cases,* 90 percent of employees understand that something has changed, and would not dare to harass. For the 10% who don't understand, you need to go further with training films and other materials."

A key fear of employers, expressed at the institute seminar on sexual harassment, and during the debate over the law last spring, was the possibility of "false alarms" – women employees charging sexual harassment when they were unhappy over other issues, or if they were fired.

Moledet MK Rehavam Ze'evi, the lone MK to vote against the law, said in the Knesset plenum that he believed the law would be "a tool for blackmail against employers, and would completely foul up relations between men and women in the workplace."

REITMAN says it is not easy to cope with a situation when an employer must try to judge the word of one worker against the other, "but I think the new law is right – that the employer has to try to deal with such a dilemma."

She concedes, though, that "sometimes it is easy to see who is telling the truth and who is not, but *sometimes it is not easy at all.*"

She adds that it is imperative that anyone dealing with the issue take it seriously, but they "also shouldn't completely lose their sense of humor... it is an uncomfortable subject, and so sometimes people joke about it. I've had people come into my office and complain that they aren't being sexually harassed enough," she says, laughing.

Though the mere passage of the law was seen as a triumph in feminist circles, the real test of its efficacy will take place in court. The world will be watching to see how this wide-reaching legislation stands the test of reality.

Kamir is confident that the courts will be supportive. By coincidence, just before the new law was passed in March, the Supreme Court took a very firm stand against sexual harassment in the case of a university professor and a student.

The true key to the law's success, Kamir believes, will ultimately lie in the hands of Israeli women who suffer from sexual harassment.

"Whether or not the law works, doesn't depend on the law, it *depends on the women,*" says Kamir. "Hopefully, the law will give them a shot of self-confidence and *self-esteem, [help* them] to take responsibility and send out the message of what kind of behavior is unacceptable.

"Women have to complain when something happens to them, and when their employers won't deal with it. If they don't go to court the law won't be used, the employers won't be hurt, and it won't be taken seriously."

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The ritual of the woman scorned

Hillary Rodham Clinton is not the first politician's wife to endure public probing of her husband's affairs. Kevin Merida considers other deceived wives

The tip-off was a stack of love letters she discovered. Her husband was having an affair with her social secretary, for goodness' sake.

Devastated, she offered him a divorce. She felt unattractive, unwanted. But divorce would disgrace their children and ruin his political career, so it was not a good option. He promised to leave his mistress – though he secretly reneged on that pledge – and the couple stayed together.

He went on to become president of the United States. And she went on to become Eleanor Roosevelt, the Eleanor Roosevelt of enduring fascination, a model of the strong, independent, compassionate first lady.

Hillary Rodham Clinton has often cited her as the kind of first lady she hoped to become, though it is doubtful she was thinking of the bond they shared as embarrassed wives deceived by unfaithful husbands.

For the cheated-on public woman, there is an endless stream of analysis, bar-stool and beauty-parlor probing of her demeanor in the aftermath of the misdeed. The TV talking heads weigh in instantly.

The columnists opine. The radio jocks stir up the masses: What would you do if you were Lee Hart?

Effi Barry? Kathie Lee Gifford? Frances Swaggart? Camille Cosby? Eileen McGann? Once again Hillary Clinton finds herself in this familiar place – the woman scorned, a public figure under the national spotlight being dissected like a lab frog.

She accompanied her husband to church Sunday, holding his hand, smiling. She invited Jesse Jackson to the residence that night, saying 18-year-old Chelsea wanted to talk. Jackson prayed with mother and daughter and later described the first lady as pained and humiliated, but not shocked, by her husband's latest sexcapade.

She was not by the president's side for his televised confession Monday, as she was for his vague admission of infidelity on *60 Minutes* during the 1992 campaign. But she helped write his speech and participated in strategy meetings before his grand jury testimony.

Her spokeswoman Marsha Berry said Tuesday, as the Clintons departed for a 10-day vacation on Martha's Vineyard, that the first lady learned only this past weekend that her husband would testify to having an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky, an intern half her age.



Hillary Clinton waves to the crowd as she arrives at Martha's Vineyard Tuesday: The first lady was described as pained and humiliated, but not shocked, by her husband's latest sexcapade. (AP)

"I love my husband. I've forgiven him. So I'm going to do everything I have to do to get him reelected"

– Judy Crane, wife of Illinois Rep. Dan Crane

Through Berry, Mrs. Clinton conveyed that she loves her husband, is committed to their marriage and forgives him.

So commonplace, this ritual.

Think Lee Hart, arm draped around her husband, smiling and throwing the crowd a wave as Gary Hart withdrew from the 1988 presidential campaign amid reports of liaisons with other women.

Think Bea Romer, who earlier this year stood next to her husband, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer, as he awkwardly explained a "very affectionate" 16-year relationship with a longtime aide.

Think Judy Crane, who campaigned for her husband, Illinois Rep. Dan Crane, after he was censured by the House for having an adulterous affair with a 17-year-old page. "I love my husband," she said on the 1984 campaign trail. "I've forgiven him. So I'm going to stand behind him and that means I'm going to do everything I have to do to get him reelected."

Sometimes, a simple loving appearance by the wife is enough to save the abusing husband – though Crane lost his election. Sometimes, the aggrieved spouse cannot bear to speak before an audience or submit to media cross-examination – Berry says the first lady has no plans to do interviews – so a written statement must suffice.

"I think about dismembering him, and good friends have offered to help me dig up the back yard and bury him"

– Eileen McGann, wife of Clinton strategist Dick Morris

Think Camille Cosby, who released this terse declaration last year after allegations that hubby Bill was the father of a 22-year-old daughter out of wedlock: "All old personal negative issues between Bill and me were resolved years ago. We are a united couple."

But often emotions build and ebb, burn and burn out. They change on you.

Think Eileen McGann. Two years ago, her husband, Dick Morris, was on top of the world as Clinton's chief campaign strategist. Suddenly he was forced to resign amid evidence that he had carried on a year-long affair with a prostitute. This was followed by a tabloid report that he had fathered a child with another woman.

After the news of his adultery broke at the Democratic National Convention, McGann drove Morris home to Connecticut. She appeared at his news conference. She posed for a *Time* magazine cover photo with him. She hung in there, though she told *Newsweek* that sometimes "I think about dismembering him, and good friends have offered to help me dig up the back yard and bury him."

It wasn't long before McGann, a successful trial lawyer, bolted, with Morris in vigorous pursuit, trying to win his wife back. Eventually, they vacationed in France, and are now back together.

Effi Barry was a picture of regal resolve, sitting behind D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, listening as details of his wild times of sex and cocaine bingeing were played out in court. But according to the book *Dream City*, she once returned to her husband's office after particularly steamy testimony, shut the door and let him have it: "I'm a person too!" aides heard her shout.

Two months after he was convicted and sent to jail, they separated. Later, she filed for divorce.

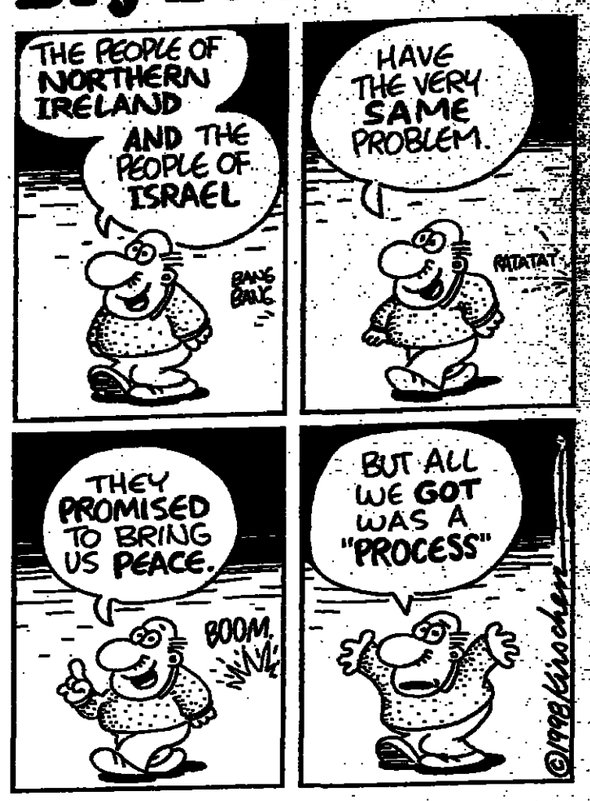
Peggy Vaughan has spent a lot of time talking and writing about extramarital affairs. She has penned books, formed support groups, appeared on *Oprah* and has a Web site. She got started in this business after her husband of 19 years, James, volunteered in 1974 that he had been cheating on her for some time. Maybe 15 or 16 women.

In 1980, the couple published *Beyond Affairs*, which detailed their experience. In the process, she has learned something about women like Hillary Clinton, women like herself.

"When you share so many life goals like the Clintons, their sex life and marriage are only part of their partnership," Vaughan says. "There's a strength of togetherness that comes from having to withstand the public outcry."

(The Washington Post)

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Avi Rosental (left) and Gideon Patt: happy meeting (David Karp)

The conversation was mostly in Italian, as were the cuisine and the couture. The event, an Italian Encounter in aid of Jerusalem's Italian Museum of Jewish Art, was sponsored by Italy's major global insurance company, Generali.

Given the notoriety Generali has reaped regarding nonpayment on policies of Holocaust victims, some of the guests around the pool in the King David Court Gardens were surprised to learn from **Armando Zimolo**, director of Generali's communication services in Trieste, that the founders of the 167-year-old company were headed by a group of prominent Jewish merchants and financiers from Trieste and Venice, including the company's first chairman, Giuseppe Lazaro Morpurgo. Except for the period from 1938 until the end of World War Two, Jews were always leaders in the company, and continue so today.

Current chairman **Antoine Bernheim**, a senior partner of the Paris-based Banque Lazard, is a seventh-generation member of a celebrated French Jewish family originally from Alsace; and in addition to the Morpurgos, who were also poets and scholars, there has been a continuous line at Generali of the **Parentes, Mondolfos, Morgantes** and **Della Vidas**, who are also active in Jewish affairs. Though forced to discharge Jewish employees during the war, Generali continued to pay their salaries and posted as many as possible to branches outside Europe.

Toward the end of the last century, Generali established agencies in Jerusalem and Jaffa, and in 1935 became one of the founders of the Migdal Insurance company, in which it recently invested $320 million in order to gain a controlling interest. Generali has a close relationship with the Italian Museum of Jewish Art, and this year presented it with three video films on the history of Italian Jewry.

Jerusalem Mayor **Ehud Olmert** said he had been told by Deputy Mayor **David Cassuto** not to speak Italian – because he can't, nor Hebrew, because many of the guests wouldn't understand him. So he spoke in English, leaving the Italian to Zimolo, Italian Ambassador **Gian Paolo Cavarai**, Italian Consul General **Enrico Nardi** and **Beniamino Lazar**, who heads the Italian Jewish community in Jerusalem.

PARTY siblings continue to pose problems for Prime Minister **Binyamin Netanyahu**. First there are the **Olmert** brothers, with **Yossi** still smarting over his failure to get the ambassadorship to the UN. Then there are the Meridor brothers, **Dan**, who quit Netanyahu's cabinet, and **Salai**, who may or may not be the next chairman of the Jewish Agency. Now there are the **Mordechai** brothers, Defense Minister **Yitzhak** and **Motti**, who aspires to be mayor of Tiberias. All three elder brothers also pose a threat to Netanyahu in the next prime ministerial elections. Maybe he'll bring in his own younger brother **Ido** to help him out.

A *Ma'ariv* item which referred to the keyboard talents of Labor leader **Ehud Barak** carried the addendum that the PM's media adviser, **David Bar-Illan**, also plays the piano. To Bar-Illan, who enjoyed a long career as an internationally acclaimed concert pianist, this was in the nature of an affront. In response, he sent a letter to *Ma'ariv* noting that not only did David Bar-Illan serve in the IDF, Ehud Barak also served. By the way, Bar-Illan has a standing invitation from Channel 2 to play an on-screen piano duet with Barak. Perhaps he'll take it up in the event of a national unity government providing background for the harmony.

IN 1946, Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog went to Europe to search for Jewish orphans who had survived the Holocaust. Now, 52 years later, one of his grandsons, **Yitzhak Herzog**, currently engaged in postgraduate law studies in the US, retraced his grandfather's footsteps – to search not for orphans, but for roots. Herzog joined New York Jews of his own generation on a pilgrimage to the scenes of the destruction of European Jewry, but could not persuade them to continue on to Israel to experience the Jewish rebirth. So he came home briefly without them to recharge his batteries. Well informed on the history of the Holocaust, Herzog noted that nothing can compare with actually being where it took place and listening to survivors talk about it.

AT last week's visit of the Israel Bonds Task Force, Bonds president **Gideon Patt** and Israel Hotel Association director-general **Avi Rosental** fell into each other's arms. The reason: When Patt was minister of tourism, he appointed Rosental as his director-general.

A *New York Daily News* gossip item about **Rupert Murdoch** quotes tidbits from the media mogul's former butler, **Philip Townsend**, whose book *Just Rupert* talks about Murdoch's generosity to politicians, notably Binyamin Netanyahu. Even before his election as prime minister, Netanyahu was the only VIP who got to stay at Murdoch's London townhouse, where it seems Murdoch furnished Bibi with a complete staff. (Actually, the hospitality the premier has enjoyed from millionaires around the world would make a book in itself.) Townsend also reveals that, in a bid to divest himself of some of his wrinkles, Murdoch underwent a face-lift a few years back, recovering from the surgery at a hotel in England's Lake District.

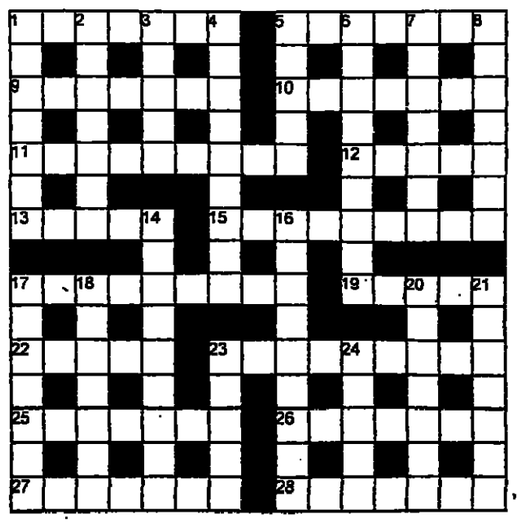
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Salvage army transporter (7)
5 Let down in poor deal (7)
9 Result of fiancee's work in pottery? (7)
10 Need about two dozen sheets (7)
11 Back-breaking load? (4,5)
12 Begins to love swans (5)
13 At party, teachers given American cake (5)
15 Large water-bird seen in night sky (3,6)
17 *He works hand in glove* with children's TV (9)
19 Moved slowly, or bounded (5)
22 Open cover to look inside (5)
23 One covering top battle in Crimea (9)
25 A trimming back of capital growth (7)
26 Enigma I resolved, fancy! (7)
27 Time to excuse spying, perhaps (7)
28 See about changing gear with alacrity (7)

DOWN

1 Upset, having played first card, to see trump over it (7)
2 Bloody misdeed almost pinned on boy (7)
3 Ice-creams unpopular with motorists (5)
4 River crustacean the French find disgusting (9)
5 *Bolt from school*, avoiding head (5)
6 Whisky on the rocks? Takes all sorts! (9)
7 Review is a distillation of pure wit (5-2)
8 Abigail's furniture (7)
14 Bits of wood cut in rural areas? (3,6)
16 Need a girl for her? (9)
17 Support the poor forecaster (7)
18 Take chair quietly and stay (7)
20 Tradesman starts getting more idle (7)
21 Yearned to move to close house (7)
23 One of 14 conductor may have to hand (5)
24 Family finally hating sound of heavy metal (5)

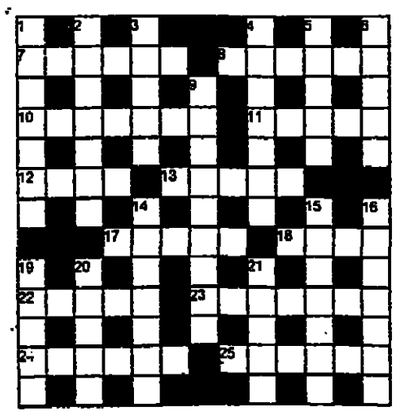


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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

7 Table attendant (6)
8 Tiny (6)
10 Place of abode (7)
11 Celebrated (5)
12 Sicilian volcano (4)
13 Fish (5)
17 Representative (5)
18 Indonesian isle (4)
22 Cooked bread (5)
23 African river (7)
24 Confesses (6)
25 Scheme (6)

DOWN

1 Pullover (7)
2 Restraining (7)
3 Postpone (5)
4 Preferment (7)
5 Ration (5)
6 Repairs (5)
9 Russian pianist (9)
14 Stir up (7)
15 Baked cheese dish (7)
16 Dreams (7)
19 Book of maps (5)
20 Damages (5)
21 Live coal (5)

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RENTALS

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HERZLIYA-PITUAH, NEW, MODERN apartment, 4 + balcony, central A/C, appliances, security, short/long term. $1500. ANGLO-SAXON, Tel. 09-956-2256. [68]

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DWELLINGS
Haifa and North

SALES

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DWELLINGS
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SALES

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GENERAL

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LIVE-IN WOMAN FOR twins + housework with experience, good conditions. Tel. 050-300-775. [794302]

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SECRETARY, ACCOUNTING KNOWLEDGE, full command of English + computers. Tel. 03-528-0505 (Edi).

SALES PERSONNEL

EXPORT .COMPANY/SALES DEPARTMENT, needs motivated dynamic marketing person. Fax: 03-575-5362. [793885]

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Sharon Area

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, August 21

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Streus A, 3 Avigdori, 670-6660; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Ariosoroff, 76 Ariosoroff, 523-0746; Briut, 28 King George, 528-3731.
Ra'anana-Ktar Sava: Bar-Ilan, 29 Bar-Ilan, Ra'anana, 744-3579.
Netanya: Hanassi, 36 Weizmann, 882-3639.
Haifa: Derech Hayam, 209 Derech Hayam, 837-1472.
Krayot area: Niv Pharm, 13 Moshe Goshen, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-0715.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, August 22

Jerusalem: (day) Super Pharm, 3 Hahistadrut, 624-6244; (evening) Center Pharm, 20 Yad Harutzim, 673-1475; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058. **Tel Aviv:** Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040; Bass, Frishman, 523-7326.
Ra'anana-Ktar Sava: (day) Margalit mall, Jabotinsky, Hod Hasharon, 740-8681; (evening) Magdiel, 54 Derech Magdiel, Hod Hasharon, 741-5567.
Netanya: Hadarim mall, 2 Hakadar, Industrial Zone, 862-8436.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312.
Krayot area: Super Pharm, Hakiryon, 44 Hapalmah, Kiryat Bialik, 877-9320.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

POLICE 100

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod*	8551333	Kfar Sava*	9902222
Ashkelon	8551332	Nahariya*	9912333
Beersheba*	6274767	Netanya*	9604444
Beit Shemesh	8523133	P. Tikva*	9311111
Dan Region*	5793333	Rehovot*	9451333
Eilat*	6332444	Rishon*	9642333
Haifa*	8512233	Safed	6920333
Jerusalem*	6523133	Tel Aviv*	5460111
Karmiel*	9985444	Tiberias*	6792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MiLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-111.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-634-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-4222).

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-950-5720.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506.

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chile St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

TORA PORTION: *Re'eh*

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS in Israel, 4 Lincoln, Jerusalem, P.O.B. 592. Worship every Shabbat, in English, Rumanian, Russian, Hebrew, Spanish. Jerusalem, Eilat. 02-625-1547. Haifa, Tel Aviv 04-825-4326. Tel Aviv, Nazareth 060601-0021. Ashkelon, Beersheba 02-625-1547.

JER.-CHRISTIAN

REDEEMER CHURCH , Lutheran, Muristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel . 6276111,6281049.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH - The Baptist House Center, #4 Narkis Street,Sunday,10:45 a.m.Tel.02-6255942.

KING OF KINGS Assembly. Sun. services 5 pm. YMCA Auditorium, 26 King David St. For information call 02-561-0017.

PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP SERVICE, Mt. Zion Fellowship. Fri., Sat., Sun., 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tel 02-582-8964.

JERUSALEM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

MORESHET YISRAEL – Conservative 4 Agron. Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi Mincha, 6:30 p.m., Shacharit, 8:30 a.m Mincha, 6:15 p.m. Daily Minyan 7 a.m.

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (The Redeemer Christian Church of God). Worship Service Saturdays 10.00 a.m., Saturdays 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Venue - 30 Levanda Street (3rd Floor),Tel Aviv.Tel 050-946777.

WHERE TO GO

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WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m. from Brontman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a,9,23,26,28. For info, call 882819.

WHERE TO GO
HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

WHERE TO GO
JERUSALEM

CONDUCTED TOURS
Tourists and Visitors. come and see the General Israel Orphans Home for Girls, Jerusalem,its manifold activities,and impressively modern buildings. Free Guided tours weekdays, 9-12.Bus no. 14, 24 , Kiryat Moshe.6523291.

ARTGUIDE

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ART GUIDE
HAIFA

THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM. (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition: The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Illness and Healing in Ancient Times . Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7. Fri. 10-1. Sat.10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

JERUSALEM

Museums
OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Hahaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE
TEL AVIV

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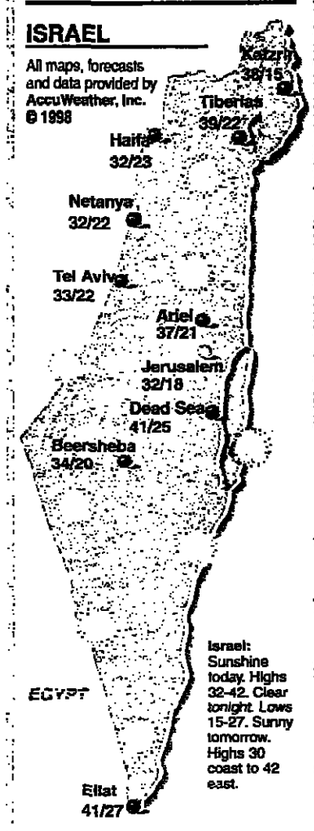
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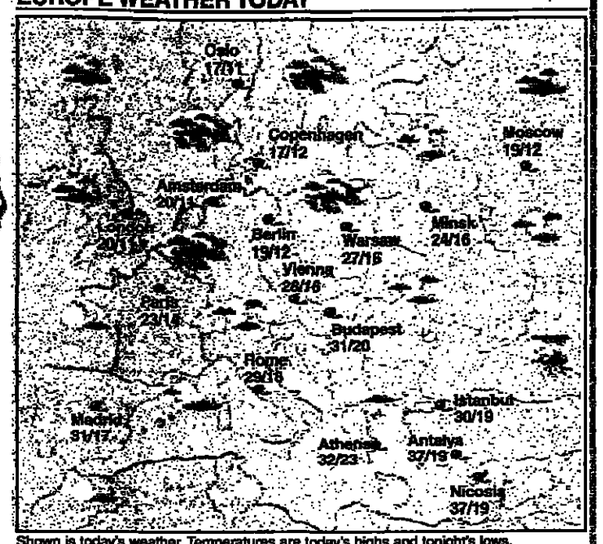
ISRAEL

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Israel: Sunshine today. Highs 32-42. Clear tonight. Lows 15-27. Sunny tomorrow. Highs 30 coast to 42 east.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F	Sunday High C/F	Sunday Low/W C/F	Monday High C/F	Monday Low/W C/F
Ariel	37/98	21/70/s	35/95	19/66/s	37/98	21/70/pc	39/102	23/73/pc
Beersheba	34/93	20/68/s	34/93	18/64/s	34/93	22/71/pc	36/97	22/71/pc
Dead Sea	41/106	25/77/s	41/106	23/73/s	43/109	27/80/pc	45/113	27/80/pc
Eilat	41/106	27/80/s	41/106	25/77/s	41/106	27/80/pc	44/111	29/84/pc
Haifa	32/89	23/73/s	30/86	23/73/s	32/89	25/77/pc	34/93	25/77/pc
Jerusalem	32/89	18/64/s	32/89	18/64/s	32/89	20/68/pc	34/93	20/68/pc
Katzrin	38/100	15/59/s	38/100	18/64/s	40/104	18/64/pc	40/104	18/64/pc
Netanya	32/89	22/71/s	30/86	22/71/s	32/89	24/75/pc	34/93	24/75/pc
Tel Aviv	33/91	22/71/s	31/88	22/71/s	33/91	24/75/pc	35/95	24/75/pc
Tiberias	39/102	22/71/s	39/102	20/68/s	41/106	24/75/pc	41/106	26/79/pc

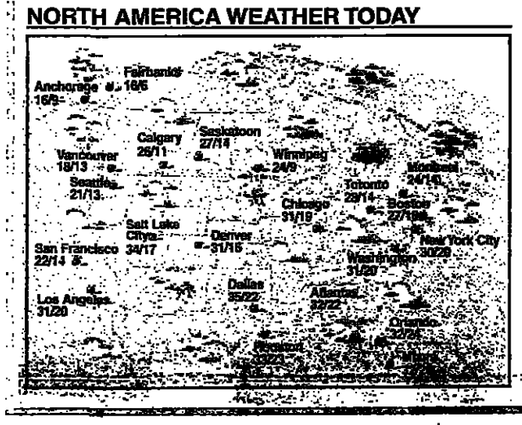
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.

New	First	Full	Last
Aug 22	Aug 30	Sept 6	Sept 13

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F	Sunday High C/F	Sunday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	20/68	11/52/r	17/62	8/46/c	16/61	8/43/s
Beijing	29/84	19/66/c	27/80	19/66/c	31/88	23/73/pc
Berlin	19/66	12/53/c	18/64	8/46/c	16/61	8/46/pc
Brussels	19/66	11/52/r	19/66	9/48/pc	18/64	7/44/s
Cairo	36/97	23/73/s	36/97	23/73/s	36/97	23/77/pc
Chicago	31/88	19/66/t	31/88	19/66/pc	28/82	18/64/pc
Frankfurt	21/70	12/53/sh	19/66	7/44/c	17/62	7/44/pc
Hong Kong	34/93	27/80/pc	33/91	26/79/pc	32/89	27/80/pc
Johannesburg	25/77	11/52/s	22/80	9/48/s	26/70	7/44/pc
London	20/68	11/52/sh	19/66	11/52/pc	19/66	11/52/s
Los Angeles	31/88	20/68/s	34/93	19/66/pc	33/91	18/64/c
Madrid	31/88	17/62/s	34/93	18/64/s	35/95	19/66/r
Mexico City	25/77	15/59/sh	22/71	14/57/c	24/75	14/57/pc
Montreal	24/75	14/57/pc	22/71	12/53/pc	21/70	12/53/pc
Moscow	19/66	12/53/pc	24/75	17/62/pc	26/79	16/61/pc
New York	30/86	20/68/pc	30/86	21/70/pc	30/86	21/70/t
Paris	23/73	14/57/pc	20/68	11/52/pc	18/64	9/48/s
Prague	23/73	13/55/pc	19/64	6/43/r	17/62	6/43/pc
Rio de Janeiro	28/82	20/68/pc	28/82	23/73/sh	26/79	21/70/pc
Rome	29/84	18/64/t	29/84	21/70/s	32/89	20/68/pc
Sydney	21/70	13/61/pc	22/71	12/53/r	17/62	7/44/sh
Tokyo	31/88	26/79/pc	29/84	24/75/pc	31/88	25/79/pc
Toronto	28/82	14/57/pc	25/77	13/55/pc	24/75	12/53/pc
Vienna	28/82	16/61/t	24/75	11/52/pc	22/71	13/55/pc
Warsaw	27/80	16/61/t	22/71	8/46/pc	19/64	13/55/pc
Washington	31/88	20/68/pc	32/89	21/70/pc	31/88	23/70/pc
Zurich	22/71	15/59/sh	21/70	12/53/r	21/70	10/50/pc

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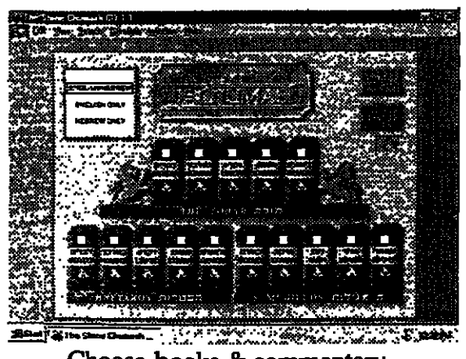
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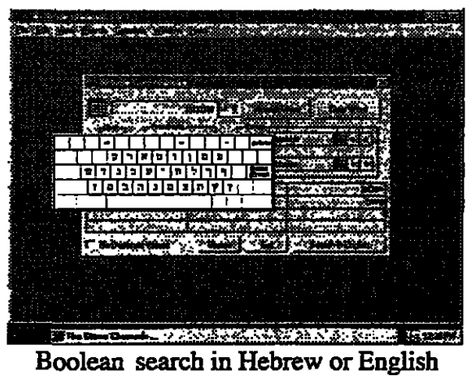
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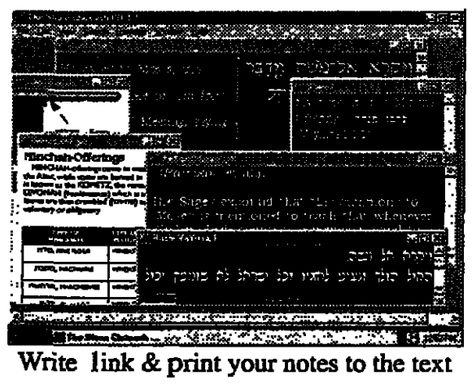
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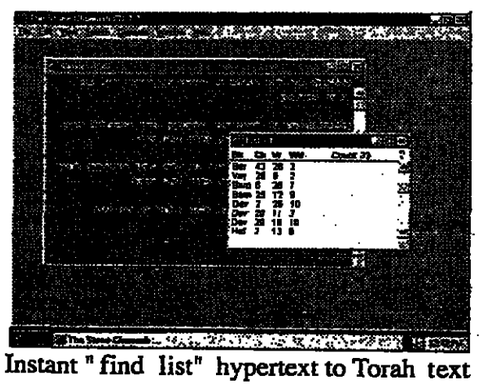
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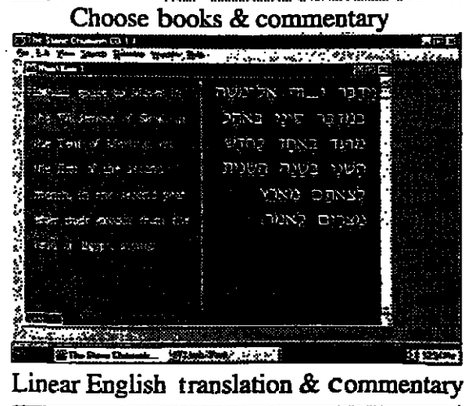

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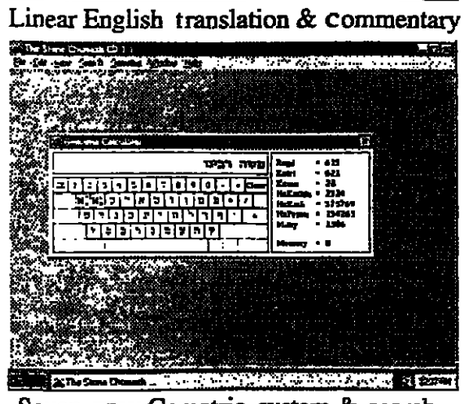

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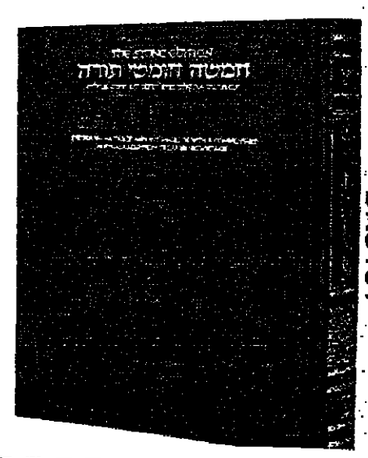
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هكذا من الاصل

Main contenders for soccer honors

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

BETAR JERUSALEM
Coach: Dror Kashtan
Home Ground: Teddy Stadium, capacity 17,000
Team colors: yellow and black
Three championships in a row is a tall order for any club, not only in Israel. Betar have the means with which to win a third title on the trot, but the early season turmoil, with the debacle over the re-signing of Hungarian Istvan Pishont once again exposed the ineptitude of Betar's management team.
The Jerusalemites still have Stefan Salloi in the attacking midfielder's role and pin much on their new Hungarian, Tamas Sandor, who has come from Torino.
Eli Ohana will return for what must be his final season as a player, while at the back, coach Kashtan still has the reliable Itzik Kornfein in goal and the reliable Sergei Tartiak and Yossi Abuksis in crucial defensive roles.

MACCABI TEL AVIV
Coach: Avraham Grant
Home Ground: National Stadium Ramat Gan, capacity 45,000
Team colors: yellow and blue
A storm of revolution has swept through most of the departments at Maccabi Tel Aviv this summer. Nir Klinger has hung up his boots and moved upstairs to become the assistant coach while veteran 'keeper Alexander Obarov has also joined the coaching staff as well as battling for the keeper's jersy with new signing Rafi Cohen.
Maccabi have invested NIS 21 million this season as Russian midfielder Alexy Kosolpov who came from Sporting Gijon and Polish striker Andjey Kuvichek who arrived from Standard Liege will hopefully set the tone as Coach Avraham Grant together with skipper Eli Driks, Moshe Glam and Alon and Gadi Brumer, who makes his comeback after a long injury, will try and guide the rest of the talented youngsters who have come through the ranks so that Maccabi challanges for one of the trophies.

HAPOEL TEL AVIV
Coach: Eli Cohen
Home Ground: Bloomfield Stadium, capacity 20,000
Team colors: red and white
Last years runners up made a few interesting changes to their squad: Assi Domb, Ofer Shitrit, Ya'akov Hillel and the imports Damian Gayzer, Mario Mastrovic, Giorgi Darssilia were all released. Coach Eli Cohen hopes to do even better this season with his signing of two Croats: Davor Rupnik and Robert Tazecki.
Assi Tubi who has already scored three goals for Hapoel in their European campaign formed a good understanding so far with Sebastian Simirotic and looks certain to add to his tally if Shalom Tikva can keep free of injury.

MACCABI HAIFA
Coaches: Dusan Ohrin and Daniel Brailowsky
Home Ground: Kiryat Eliezer, capacity 18,000
Team colors: green and white
After finishing fourth in the league last season the State Cup mannaged to salvage Maccabi's season as it handed the bonus of European football. Former Czech Republic coach Dusan Ohrin has been appointed as joined manager together with Daniel Brailovsky and they will try and put the "green train" back on the rails.
Maccabi will have a completly different look from last season as Alon Harazi returned from a one year loan spell in Jerusalem, Liron Wilner, Shuki Nagar and Borrussia Dortmund's duo Shlomi Dahan and Amos Sassi arrived together with Israel's hottest young property: Yossi Benayoun.
With the signing of former Czech Republic striker Radovan Rometco who will join Alon Mizrahi, Arik Benado and Nir Davidovic Maccabi look like Championship contenders.

HAPOEL HAIFA
Coach: Eli Guttman
Home Ground: Kiryat Eliezer, capacity 18,000
Team colors: red and black
Eli Guttman gave Hapoel's fans their best season since the early seventies as Hapoel finished third in the league and beat their city rivals Maccabi in one of the derbies 4-2. Shai Holtzman will try and supply cover for Ronen Harazi who has moved to Turkey and despite the fact that Hapoel hasn't been involved much in the transfer market this summer they have bought Najwan Grayev who has become a regular in every Israel get together. Ran Ben-Shimon, Ofer Talkar, Liron Bassis, Dimitri Ulianov and Goran Milenko together with Guttman's shrewd tactics will form a difficult team to beat.

HAPOEL PETAH TIKVA
Coach: Giora Spiegel
Home Ground: Petah Tikva Municipal Stadium, capacity 8,500
Team colors: blue and white
Giora Spiegel who started his managerial career at Petah Tikva has been called back to replace Nir Levin.
Romanian Ilia Stan was brought to strengthen a side that has a great deal of potential in the form of Manor Hassan, Idan Hillel, Eli Abarbanel and Walid Bdir who has become a regular international.
Levin finished fifth with Hapoel last season but Spiegel is keen to prove that he is still one of Israel's top coaches and take Petah Tikva even further but without the financial backing he received at Haifa a big question mark will tail him this season.

1997-98 season honors

National League champions (European Champions League berth)	Betar Jerusalem
State Cup winners (European Cup Winners' Cup berth)	Maccabi Haifa
National League runners up (UEFA Cup berth)	Hapoel Tel Aviv
Relegated	Hapoel Ashkelon, Hapoel Beersheba
National League Toto Cup winners	Betar Jerusalem
Second Division champions	Maccabi Jaffa
Runners up (also promoted)	Zafririm Holon
Relegated	Maccabi Yavne, Hapoel Ramat Gan
Second Division Toto Cup winners	Maccabi Jaffa
Promoted from Third Division	Ahi Nazareth, Betar Beersheba

1998-99 National League season fixtures

1. 22/8/98

Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Bnei Yehuda
Ironi Ashdod	v.	Mac. Tel Aviv
Mac. Petah Tikva	v.	Bet. Jerusalem
Ironi Rishon	v.	Hap. Haifa
Mac. Haifa	v.	Hap. Beit She'an
Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Hap. Petah Tikva
Hap. Tel Aviv	v.	Mac. Jaffa
Zafririm Holon	v.	Mac. Herzliya

2. 29/8/98

Bnei Yehuda	v.	Mac. Herzliya
Mac. Jaffa	v.	Zafririm Holon
Hap. Petah Tikva	v.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Hap. Beit She'an	v.	Hap. Jerusalem
Hap. Haifa	v.	Mac. Haifa
Bet. Jerusalem	v.	Ironi Rishon
Mac. Tel Aviv	v.	Mac. Petah Tikva
Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Ironi Ashdod

3. 12/9/98

Ironi Ashdod	v.	Bnei Yehuda
Mac. Petah Tikva	v.	Hap. Kfar Sava
Ironi Rishon	v.	Mac. Tel Aviv
Mac. Haifa	v.	Bet. Jerusalem
Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Hap. Haifa
Hap. Tel Aviv	v.	Hap. Beit She'an
Zafririm Holon	v.	Hap. Petah Tikva
Mac. Herzliya	v.	Mac. Jaffa

4. 26/9/98

Bnei Yehuda	v.	Mac. Jaffa
Hap. Petah Tikva	v.	Mac. Herzliya
Hap. Beit She'an	v.	Zafririm Holon
Hap. Haifa	v.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Bet. Jerusalem	v.	Hap. Jerusalem
Mac. Tel Aviv	v.	Mac. Haifa
Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Ironi Rishon
Ironi Ashdod	v.	Mac. Petah Tikva

5. 3/10/98

Mac. Petah Tikva	v.	Bnei Yehuda
Ironi Rishon	v.	Ironi Ashdod
Mac. Haifa	v.	Hap. Kfar Sava
Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Mac. Tel Aviv
Hap. Tel Aviv	v.	Bet. Jerusalem
Zafririm Holon	v.	Hap. Haifa
Mac. Herzliya	v.	Hap. Beit She'an
Mac. Jaffa	v.	Hap. Petah Tikva

6. 24/10/98

Bnei Yehuda	v.	Hap. Petah Tikva
Hap. Beit She'an	v.	Mac. Jaffa
Hap. Haifa	v.	Mac. Herzliya
Bet. Jerusalem	v.	Zafririm Holon
Mac. Tel Aviv	v.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Hap. Jerusalem
Ironi Ashdod	v.	Mac. Haifa
Mac. Petah Tikva	v.	Ironi Rishon

7. 31/10/98

Ironi Rishon	v.	Bnei Yehuda
Mac. Haifa	v.	Mac. Petah Tikva
Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Ironi Ashdod
Hap. Tel Aviv	v.	Hap. Kfar Sava
Zafririm Holon	v.	Mac. Tel Aviv
Mac. Herzliya	v.	Bet. Jerusalem
Mac. Jaffa	v.	Hap. Haifa
Hap. Petah Tikva	v.	Hap. Beit She'an

8. 7/11/98

Bnei Yehuda	v.	Hap. Beit She'an
Hap. Haifa	v.	Hap. Petah Tikva
Bet. Jerusalem	v.	Mac. Jaffa
Mac. Tel Aviv	v.	Mac. Herzliya
Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Zafririm Holon
Mac. Ironi Ashdod	v.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Mac. Petah Tikva	v.	Hap. Jerusalem
Ironi Rishon	v.	Mac. Haifa

9. 14/11/98

Mac. Haifa	v.	Bnei Yehuda
Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Ironi Rishon
Hap. Tel Aviv	v.	Mac. Petah Tikva
Zafririm Holon	v.	Ironi Ashdod
Mac. Herzliya	v.	Hap. Kfar Sava
Mac. Jaffa	v.	Mac. Tel Aviv
Hap. Petah Tikva	v.	Bet. Jerusalem
Hap. Beit She'an	v.	Hap. Haifa

10. 21/11/98

Bnei Yehuda	v.	Hap. Haifa
Bet. Jerusalem	v.	Hap. Beit She'an
Mac. Tel Aviv	v.	Hap. Petah Tikva
Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Mac. Jaffa
Ironi Ashdod	v.	Mac. Herzliya
Mac. Petah Tikva	v.	Zafririm Holon
Ironi Rishon	v.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Mac. Haifa	v.	Hap. Jerusalem

11. 5/12/98

Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Bnei Yehuda
Hap. Tel Aviv	v.	Mac. Haifa
Zafririm Holon	v.	Ironi Rishon
Mac. Herzliya	v.	Mac. Petah Tikva
Mac. Jaffa	v.	Ironi Ashdod
Hap. Petah Tikva	v.	Hap. Kfar Sava
Hap. Beit She'an	v.	Mac. Tel Aviv
Hap. Haifa	v.	Bet. Jerusalem7

12. 12/12/98

Bnei Yehuda	v.	Bet. Jerusalem
Mac. Tel Aviv	v.	Hap. Haifa
Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Hap. Beit She'an
Ironi Ashdod	v.	Hap. Petah Tikva
Mac. Petah Tikva	v.	Mac. Jaffa
Ironi Rishon	v.	Mac. Herzliya
Mac. Haifa	v.	Zafririm Holon
Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Hap. Tel Aviv

13. 19/12/98

Hap. Tel Aviv	v.	Bnei Yehuda
Zafririm Holon	v.	Hap. Jerusalem
Mac. Herzliya	v.	Mac. Haifa
Mac. Jaffa	v.	Ironi Rishon
Hap. Petah Tikva	v.	Mac. Petah Tikva
Hap. Beit She'an	v.	Ironi Ashdod
Hap. Haifa	v.	Hap. Kfar Sava
Bet. Jerusalem	v.	Mac. Tel Aviv

14. 26/12/98

Bnei Yehuda	v.	Mac. Tel Aviv
Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Bet. Jerusalem
Ironi Ashdod	v.	Hap. Haifa
Mac. Petah Tikva	v.	Hap. Beit She'an
Ironi Rishon	v.	Hap. Petah Tikva
Mac. Haifa	v.	Mac. Jaffa
Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Mac. Herzliya
Hap. Tel Aviv	v.	Zafririm Holon

15. 2/1/99

Zafririm Holon	v.	Bnei Yehuda
Mac. Herzliya	v.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Mac. Jaffa	v.	Hap. Jerusalem
Hap. Petah Tikva	v.	Mac. Haifa
Hap. Beit She'an	v.	Ironi Rishon
Hap. Haifa	v.	Mac. Petah Tikva
Bet. Jerusalem	v.	Ironi Ashdod
Mac. Tel Aviv	v.	Hap. Kfar Sava

30. 29/5/99

Bnei Yehuda	v.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Hap. Jerusalem	v.	Mac. Haifa
Hap. Petah Tikva	v.	Mac. Jaffa
Ironi Rishon	v.	Hap. Beit She'an
Ironi Ashdod	v.	Mac. Petah Tikva
Hap. Kfar Sava	v.	Hap. Haifa
Mac. Tel Aviv	v.	Bet. Jerusalem
Zafririm Holon	v.	Mac. Herzliya

WANTED

Continued from Page 24

While Betar Jerusalem's abysmal showing during the 6-0 crushing defeat at the hands of Benfica Lisbon in the European Champions' League preliminary round may be the latest low ebb of Israeli club soccer, there can be no room for such "aberrations." It is just like the England national team or like a top English club side who, even though they may not be the best, are always expected to produce a result, no matter who their opponents may be.

Even in the National League there can be no room for feeling "comfortably numb" because that numbness is the harbinger of paralysis and eventual death.

If Israeli soccer is to find its place in Europe, it must improve. Improvement can only come if there is money for players, infrastructure, training facilities, coaches and giving the players the peace of mind to concentrate solely on their profession.

Many may say that Israeli soccer is overrated and that the players are grossly overpaid and do not deliver the goods. There is more than a kernel of truth in this, but while it is easy to point the finger at one of several elements who may be to blame for the state of affairs, the fact is that what has been done cannot now be undone.

If the game is to survive at the highest level, the heads of Israeli soccer must find the solutions which the sport demands. It demands loads and loads of money.

Inaugural women's league to kick off

By AMMANJAH DE VRIES

A new addition to the Israeli soccer scene this season will be the first ever official women's league.

After having set up a women's national side a little under a year ago, the Israel Football Association, following some pressure from UEFA and top Israeli clubs such as Hapoel Tel Aviv, has finally agreed to back it up with a women's league.

The new women's league is expected to include between eight and ten teams and will begin play sometime in early October with the same format as the men's league. A women's cup competition is also in the works.

So far, teams already established include Hapoel and Maccabi Tel Aviv, Maccabi Haifa, Betar Ramle, Hapoel Petah Tikva, Marmorek, Hapoel Ashkelon and ASA Tel Aviv.

The eligibility requirements for clubs to join the women's league are the same as for their male counterparts – having the proper insurance for players, a field to play on and the money.

The IFA has allocated a budget of NIS100,000 per team and the players will most likely receive token "salaries" of no more than NIS 100-200 or so per training session and for games.5

As a result, the main factor still in dispute is on what days the women will play. Teams and players are hoping to continue playing on Fridays and Saturdays before the men's games, while the IFA is looking to move the matches to the middle of the week. This would be particularly hard on many of the players, most of whom work at regular job. The advantage of playing before the men say the clubs, coaches and players, is not only that it attracts more fans and raises awareness of the existence of football as a women's sport, but also that it enables most women to participate without missing work or having to find baby-sitters for their children.

The teams to look out for are Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Haifa, with Maccabi Tel Aviv possibly challenging for honors as well.

Both Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Haifa were undefeated in last season's pre-league play. They played out a 1-1 and 0-0 draw in the two clashes between the sides.

Top names will include Hapoel Tel Aviv's forwards Revital Amuiel and national side Iris Fischer and Maccabi Haifa's national goalkeeper Iris Avraham.

Muralitheran, Atapattu star in Sri Lanka win over England

LONDON (Reuters) – Brilliant off-spin from Muttiah Muralitheran and a clinical century by Marvan Atapattu led Sri Lanka to a five-wicket triumph over England and victory in the triangular one- day tournament at Lord's yesterday.

Muralitheran produced the best figures by any bowler in a one-day international at the home of cricket, five for 34, as England were restricted to 256 for eight.

Then Atapattu's superb, unbeaten 132 made short work of the run chase as Sri Lanka won with 17 balls to spare.

For the third time in the tournament England seemed well placed for a total in excess of 280 before slumping in the closing overs to waste an excellent start.

Openers Nick Knight and Mike Atherton, recalled to the England side, made 132 for the first wicket and the home side reached 170 for one in the 34th over before the slide began.

Former captain Atherton made a lie of the perception that he is too slow for one-day cricket by dominating the opening stand on a firm batting surface, his 50 coming from as many balls with six boundaries.

Knight was always more circumspect, reaching 50 from 65 balls with just three fours.

But Atherton departed first, in the 26th over, when he chipped Muralitheran to a well-placed Arjuna Ranatunga at short mid-wicket to depart for 64 from 73 balls with seven fours.

Alec Stewart gloved an attempted sweep off Muralitheran to the wicket keeper to go for 18 and Graeme Hick was bowled by a ball that just removed the bail from off stump from leg spinner Upul Chandana.

Muralitheran returned for a second spell in which he struck three times in five balls beginning with a brilliant caught and bowled to dismiss Knight for an increasingly slow 94 from 136 balls with four boundaries.

Nasser Hussain was then trapped lbw for a second ball duck and Alistair Brown's run-a-ball blast of 18 ended when a huge turner from Muralitheran came back far enough to hit middle and leg stumps having pitched a foot outside off stump.

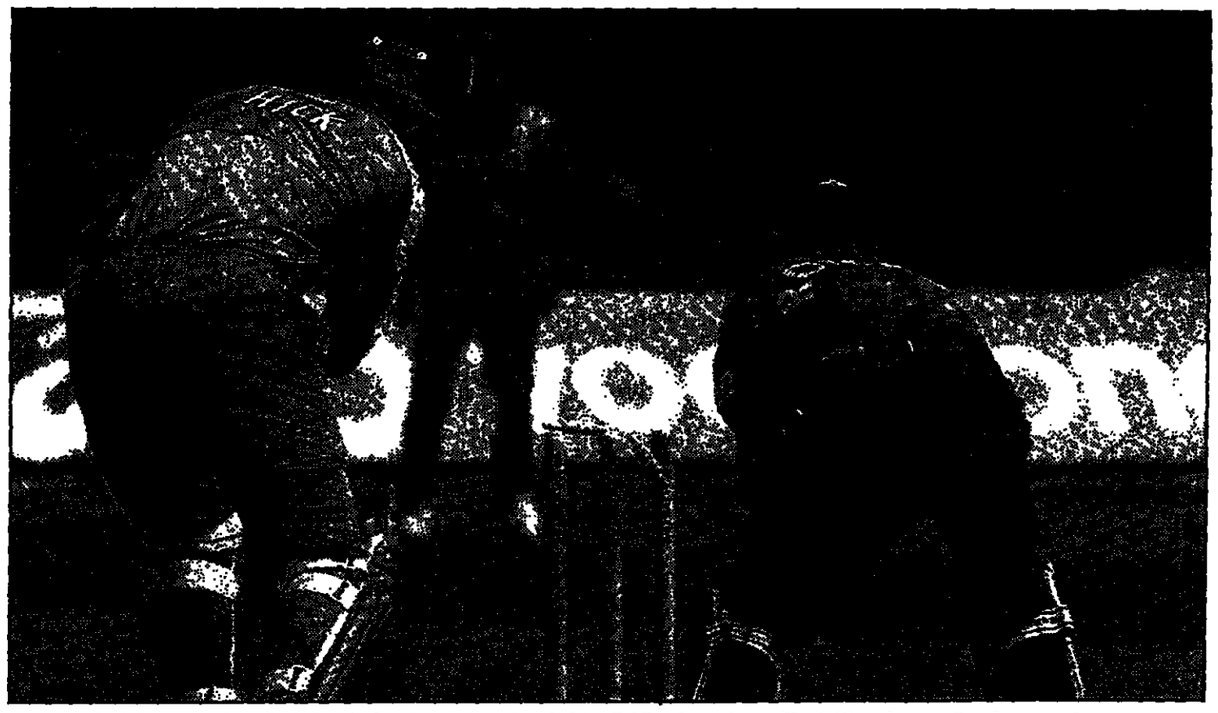
Sri Lanka's reply began inauspiciously when Gough bowled Sanath Jayasuriya for a duck in the first over but England had to wait another 138 runs for their next wicket when Romesh Kaluwitherana's spunky 68 from 77 balls ended with a carve to deep cover.

Aravinda de Silva thrashed 15 in one over from Peter Martin before pulling Gough to deep square leg on 34 from 37 balls and captain Ranatunga fell for one to a fine slip catch by Knight.

England sensed a chance when Chandana (2) fell to a diving catch by Knight at deep mid wicket but Atapattu, given his only life on 97 when Gough spilled a difficult chance at mid-on, was in glorious form guiding the tourists to victory and a cheque for £15,000.

Muralitheran's figures were only his second best in one-day internationals while Atapattu's match-winning 132 not out, from 151 balls with 14 fours, was his second one-day century but very much a career best.

Sri Lanka play England in their sole Test match at the Oval on Thursday.



Graeme Hick looks back to find that he has been clean bowled by Sri Lanka spinner Upul Chandana at Lords yesterday. (Reuters)

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 24

Astros 4, Phillies 3
Derek Bell's two-run single with two outs in the ninth rallied Houston to a road victory.
Shane Reynolds (15-8) gave up five hits, struck out nine and walked one in eight innings for the win.

Mets 2, Rockies 1
Masaro Yoshii allowed one run in 7 2/3 innings to earn his first win since May 27 and Mike Piazza had a clutch hit for the second straight game.
Host New York swept the three-game series and won for 10th time in its last 13 contests.

Giants 6, Braves 2
Charlie Hayes' two-run single highlighted a four-run third inning and backed six solid innings by Mark Gardner as visiting San Francisco defeated Tom Glavine.
Gardner (10-5) allowed seven hits and walked two without recording a strikeout.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Athletics 6, White Sox 0
Rookie Blake Stein threw a two-hitter for his first major league shutout for host Oakland.
Stein, obtained in last summer's deal that sent Mark McGwire to St. Louis, allowed only a bunt single by Mike Caruso in the first and a bloop triple by Magglio Ordonez in the second.

Orioles 6, Devil Rays 4
Mike Bordick hit a three-run homer and Mike Mussina struck out 10 in seven gritty innings for the hosts.
The Orioles' sixth win in seven games improved their record to 30-8 since the All-Star break. Cal Ripken went 3-for-4 with an RBI to move within one hit of tying Brooks Robinson's franchise record of 2,848 career hits.

Red Sox 11, Royals 1
Mike Stanley homered twice and drove in six runs and Tim Wakefield pitched his second complete game of the season in the victory.
Stanley, acquired from Toronto on July 30, hit a two-run homer in the Boston's four-run first inning and added a two-run single in the four-run second.

Twins 5, Yankees 3
Host Minneapolis made it 3-for-3 against Andy Pettitte this season, getting outstanding relief performances from Dan Serafini and Mike Trombley.
Five different players drove in runs for the Twins, who won for just the third time in August and handed the Yankees their second loss in 14 games.
The Twins, whose three wins against the Yankees equal the most by any team this season, prevented New York from the best record this century through 123 games. The Yankees are 92-31, matching the 1906 Chicago Cubs' 123-game mark.
Pettitte (14-7) gave up all five runs on nine hits in eight innings for his fifth complete game of the season. He is 0-3 against Minnesota this season with an 8.27 ERA.

Rangers 3, Indians 1
Charles Nagy gave up the lead with two straight bases-loaded walks during the Rangers' three-run sixth inning as host Texas snapped a three-game losing streak.
Nagy (10-9) walked Todd Zeile and Mike Simms for the second and third runs of the inning after Ivan Rodriguez's infield single tied it at 1.

Angels 2, Tigers 0
Jack McDowell, back after missing 2½ months with a sore elbow, pitched seven strong innings to win for the hosts.
McDowell (2-2) threw 80 pitches, 59 for strikes, struck out two, allowed five hits and walked none.
McDowell rejoined the active roster last Saturday but had to finally serve a four-day suspension for participating in the Angels-Royals brawl on June 2.
Darin Erstad put Anaheim ahead to stay with an RBI single in the third inning.

Blue Jays 16, Mariners 2
Visiting Toronto hit a season-high seven home runs, two each by Shawn Green and Carlos Delgado, and Ken Griffey Jr.'s home run slump continued.
Pat Hentgen (11-9) allowed four hits in five innings on a night when the Blue Jays hit four homers off Ken Cloude (7-9) in the first three innings to take a 6-0 lead.
Griffey, the AL leader with 42 homers, went 0-for-2 with a walk and has one HR in his last 73 at bats. over 17 games.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago	000 000 000–0 2 2		
Oakland	000 231 00x–6 8 1		
Sirotka, Navarro (6), Bradford (8) and Machado; Stein and Macfarlane. W–Stein, 5-7. L–Sirotka, 12-11. HRs–Oakland, Blowers (9), Macfarlane (7).			
Boston	440 201 000–11 14 0		
Kansas City	000 001 000–1 5 0		
Wakefield and Hatteberg; Barber, Haney (2), Pittsley (7) and MLSweeney. W–Wakefield, 15-5. L–Barber, 0-1. D-1. HRs–Boston, Stanley 2 (29).			
Tampa Bay	000 101 020–4 12 0		
Baltimore	030 001 20x–6 12 0		
Arrojo, R.Tatis (6), White (7), Yan (8) and Flaherty; Mussina, Orosco (8), A.Benitez (9) and Holles, Webster (9). W–Mussina, 12-6. L–Arrojo, 11-10. Sv–A.Benitez (19). HR–Baltimore, Bordick (8).			
Cleveland	001 000 000–1 5 0		
Texas	000 003 00x–3 8 0		
Nagy, S.Reed (8), T.Martin (9), D.Jones (8) and S.Alomar; Sele, Wetteland (9) and I.Rodriguez. W–Sele, 14-10. L–Nagy, 10-8. Sv–Wetteland (35).			
New York	010 100 010–3 7 0		
Minnesota	021 020 00x–5 8 1		
Pettitte and Girardi, Posada (8); Morgan, Serafini (8), Trombley (7), Carrasco (8), Aguilera (9) and Stahlbach. W–Serafini, 5-4. L–Pettitte, 14-7. Sv–Aguilera (31).			
Detroit	000 000 000–0 6 0		
Anaheim	001 010 00x–2 9 0		
J.Thompson and Siddall; McDowell, Hasegawa (8), Percival (9) and Nevin. W–McDowell, 2-2. L–J.Thompson, 10-10. Sv–Percival (34).			
Toronto	024 240 130–16 21 1		
Seattle	000 010 010–2 6 1		
Hentgen, Almanzar (6), Stieb (7) and Fletcher. Dalesandro (7), KL.Brown (8); Cloude, B.Wells (8), Ayala (8), Paniagua (7), McCarthy (8), Slocumb (9) and J.Oliver. W–Hentgen, 11-9. L–Cloude, 7-9. Sv–Stieb (1). HRs–Toronto, S.Green 2 (25), C.Delgado 2 (25), Ja.Cruz (6), Fletcher (7), Crespo (1).			

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati	100 000 001–8 12 0		
Milwaukee	000 000 020–2 7 1		
Harnisch, G.White (8) and Taubensee; Woodard, Patrick (4), De Los Santos (6), M.Myers (8) and Matheny. W–Harnisch, 9-8. L–Woodard, 9-8. HRs–Cincinnati, Casey (5). Milwaukee, Vina (7).			
St. Louis	200 001 210 2–8 18 1		
Chicago (10 innings)	020 220 000 0–6 9 2		
Bottenfield, Frascatore (6), Croushore (7), Painter (7), Brantley (8), Acevedo (9) and Marrero; M.Clark, T.Adams (6), F.Heredia (6), Karchner (7), Mulholland (8), Wengert (10) and Houston, Servais (7). W–Acevedo, 6-2. L–Mulholland, 3-4. HRs–St. Louis, McGwire 2 (49), R.Lankford (23), DeShields (5). Chicago, Sosa (48), H.Rodriguez (31). J.Hernandez (18).			
Los Angeles	030 002 000–5 6 2		
Pittsburgh	002 020 20x–6 7 0		
Bohanon, Osuna (7) and C.Johnson; Van Poppel, M.Williams (7), Christiansen (9) and Kendall. W–M.Williams, 3-1. L–Bohanon, 6-8. Sv–Christiansen (5). HR–Pittsburgh, Ma.Martinez (6).			
San Diego	000 000 000–0 11 1		
Florida	010 041 00x–6 10 0		
Hitchcock, S.Sanders (6), Boehringer (8) and Leyritz, G.Myers (8); Meadows, Darensbourg (8), Edmondson (8) and Redmond. W–Meadows, 10-9. L–Hitchcock, 7-5. HR–Florida, Redmond (2).			
Montreal	201 100 400–8 10 0		
Arizona	000 001 100–2 4 2		
Hermanson, Bennett (6), Urbina (9) and Widger; Telemaco, Chouinard (7), R.Rodriguez (9) and Stinnett. W–Hermanson, 11-9. L–Telemaco, 4-8. HRs–Montreal, V.Guerrero (30). Arizona, Gilkey (5), M.Williams (16).			
Houston	000 011 002–4 11 0		
Philadelphia	000 000 300–3 7 1		
Reynolds, B.Wagner (8) and Eusebio; Loewer, M.Leiter (8) and Estalella. W–Reynolds, 15-8. L–M.Leiter, 6-4. Sv–B.Wagner (24). HRs–Houston, Alou (36). Philadelphia, Abreu (11).			
Colorado	100 000 000–1 9 0		
New York	002 000 00x–2 6 2		
BM.Jones, Leskanic (7) and Manwaring; Yoshii, Cook (8), J.Franco (9) and Piazza. W–Yoshii, 5-8. L–BM.Jones, 5-7. Sv–J.Franco (27). HR–Colorado, D.Hamilton (3).			
San Francisco	104 000 100–6 11 0		
Atlanta	000 020 000–2 7 0		
Gardner, R.Rodriguez (7), Nen (8) and B.Johnson; Glavine, De.Martinez (8), A.Butler (8), Rocker (9) and J.Lopez. W–Gardner, 10-5. L–Glavine, 16-5.			

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING–Olerud, New York, .351; Bichette, Colorado, .344; LWalker, Colorado, .337; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .335; VGuerrero, Montreal, .333; ChJones, Atlanta, .325; BJordan, St. Louis, .325.
RUNS–ChJones, Atlanta, 101; Biggio, Houston, 98; Sosa, Chicago, 97; Bagwell, Houston, 94; McGwire, St. Louis, 94; Glanville, Philadelphia, 91; GVaughn, San Diego, 91.
RBI–Sosa, Chicago, 121; Castilla, Colorado, 110; Alou, Houston, 110; McGwire, St. Louis, 108; Bichette, Colorado, 107; Galarraga, Atlanta, 101; ChJones, Atlanta, 96; GVaughn, San Diego, 96.
HITS–Bichette, Colorado, 181; VGuerrero, Montreal, 163; Castilla, Colorado, 162; Glanville, Philadelphia, 161; Biggio, Houston, 161; ChJones, Atlanta, 155; DeBell, Houston, 154.
HOME RUNS–McGwire, St. Louis, 49; Sosa, Chicago, 48; GVaughn, San Diego, 40; Galarraga, Atlanta, 38; Castilla, Colorado, 36; Alou, Houston, 36; HRodriguez, Chicago, 31.
STOLEN BASES–Womack, Pittsburgh, 46; Biggio, Houston, 40; Renteria, Florida, 38; EcYoung, Los Angeles, 36; Floyd, Florida, 24; OVeras, San Diego, 21; DeShields, St. Louis, 21; Bonds, San Francisco, 21.
PITCHING (14 Decisions)–KBrown, San Diego, 15-4, .789, 2.46; Glavine, Atlanta, 16-5, .762, 2.53; ALeiter, New York, 12-4, .750, 2.35; Ashby, San Diego, 16-6, .727, 2.62; GMaddux, Atlanta, 16-6, .727, 1.65; Millwood, Atlanta, 14-6, .700, 4.41; Trachsel, Chicago, 13-6, .684, 4.05.
STRIKEOUTS–Schilling, Philadelphia, 233; Wood, Chicago, 204; KBrown, San Diego, 198; GMaddux, Atlanta, 183; Reynolds, Houston, 180; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 153; Stottlemyre, St. Louis, 147. Hoffman, San Diego, 40; Beck, Chicago, 37; Shaw, Los Angeles, 36; Nen, San Francisco, 31; JFranco, New York, 27; Urbina, Montreal, 26; BWagner, Houston, 24.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING–BWilliams, New York, .354; TWalker, Minnesota, .338; MVaughn, Boston, .332; Garciaparra, Boston, .324; IRodriguez, Texas, .324; Segui, Seattle, .324; DJeter, New York, .322.
RUNS–Griffey Jr, Seattle, 98; ARodriguez, Seattle, 96; DJeter, New York, 95; Durham, Chicago, 93; Edmonds, Anaheim, 91; JnValentin, Boston, 90; Knoblauch, New York, 90.
RBI–JuGonzalez, Texas, 120; Belle, Chicago, 109; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 105; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 105; ARodriguez, Seattle, 101; MRamirez, Cleveland, 101; Garciaparra, Boston, 97; TMartinez, New York, 97.
HITS–ARodriguez, Seattle, 184; MVaughn, Boston, 154; DJeter, New York, 153; Offerman, Kansas City, 153; GAnderson, Anaheim, 149; Garciaparra, Boston, 148; Higginson, Detroit, 148; ONeill, New York, 148.
HOME RUNS–Griffey Jr, Seattle, 42; Belle, Chicago, 37; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 37; ARodriguez, Seattle, 36; JuGonzalez, Texas, 34; Canseco, Toronto, 34; MVaughn, Boston, 33.
STOLEN BASES–Henderson, Oakland, 53; Lofton, Cleveland, 39; Stewart, Toronto, 37; ARodriguez, Seattle, 37; BJHunter, Detroit, 34; Offerman, Kansas City, 34; TGoodwin, Texas, 31; Nixon, Minnesota, 31.
PITCHING (14 Decisions)–DWells, New York, 15-2, .882, 3.44; Cone, New York, 18-4, .818, 3.37; PMartinez, Boston, 16-4, .800, 2.82; Wakefield, Boston, 15-5, .750, 4.28; Clemens, Toronto, 14-6, .700, 3.05; Rogers, Oakland, 11-5, .687, 3.12; Colon, Cleveland, 13-6, .684, 3.07.
STRIKEOUTS–RJohnson, Seattle, 213; PMartinez, Boston, 196; Clemens, Toronto, 185; CFinley, Anaheim, 173; Cone, New York, 157; Erickson, Baltimore, 149; Mussina, Baltimore, 140.
SAVES–Gordon, Boston, 36; Percival, Anaheim, 33; Wetteland, Texas, 33; MRivera, New York, 32; MJackson, Cleveland, 31; Aguilera, Minnesota, 31; RaMyers, Toronto, 28.

WILD CARD STANDINGS

American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	74	50	.597	–
Baltimore	68	58	.540	7
Texas	66	59	.528	8½

National League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	69	55	.556	–
Chicago	69	57	.548	1
San Francisco	67	59	.532	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
East Division				
Atlanta	83	43	.659	–
New York	69	55	.556	13
Philadelphia	61	64	.488	21½
Montreal	51	76	.402	32½
Florida	45	81	.357	38
Central Division				
Houston	78	49	.614	–
Chicago	69	57	.548	8½
St. Louis	60	64	.484	16½
Milwaukee	60	66	.476	17½
Pittsburgh	58	68	.460	19½
Cincinnati	57	69	.452	20½
West Division				
San Diego	81	45	.643	–
San Francisco	67	59	.532	14
Los Angeles	62	64	.492	19
Colorado	57	70	.449	24½
Arizona	47	79	.373	34

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
East Division				
New York	92	31	.748	–
Boston	74	50	.597	18½
Baltimore	68	58	.540	25½
Toronto	64	62	.508	29½
Tampa Bay	48	76	.387	44½
Central Division				
Cleveland	69	56	.552	–
Chicago	56	68	.452	12½
Minnesota	55	70	.440	14
Kansas City	55	71	.436	14½
Detroit	49	75	.395	19½
West Division				
Anaheim	68	58	.540	–
Texas	66	59	.528	1½
Seattle	56	68	.452	11
Oakland	56	70	.444	12

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Inside

Soccer season starts

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Yorke joins Man. Utd. for club record £12.6m

MANCHESTER (Reuters) – Manchester United closed their summer spending spree yesterday with a club record £12.6 million signing of Aston Villa striker Dwight Yorke.

United said in a statement that £6.6 million was payable immediately, followed by four quarterly instalments of £1.5 million over the next 12 months.

The Trinidad and Tobago player later appeared at a news conference with United manager Alex Ferguson.

"Of all the strikers who've played against us in the last few years he was the one who gave us the most problems," said Ferguson, who had chased his man since last year. "He's got two good feet, he's brave and he's got good endurance. He can beat a man and score goals so all the parts add up."

Yorke, who had two years on his contract at English premier league rivals Villa, signed a five-year deal.

It came before a 2200 GMT European transfer deadline, ensuring he can play in this season's Champions' League.

The 26-year-old told reporters that although he had nine "fantastic years" at Villa he was desperate to come to Manchester once he first heard of their interest and was not worried about the price tag or the competition for places.

In another big transfer yesterday, Blackburn Rovers signed Derby County defender Christian Dailly for £5.35 million.

Rovers said the Scottish international had put his signature to a six-year contract with club.

Blackburn see Dailly as an ideal replacement for central defender Colin Hendry, who moved to Rangers earlier this month.

Big Mac back-to-back

McGwire hits pair for 49, Sosa blasts 48th

CHICAGO (AP) – After going more than a week without a home run, Mark McGwire hit Nos. 48 and 49 back-to-back Wednesday to give the Cardinals an 8-6 victory over the Cubs in 10 innings.

Sosa hit his 48th homer in the fifth inning.

It was the 49th multi-homer game of McGwire's career, and his sixth this season.

After tying the game at 6 in the eighth, McGwire homered to center field in the 10th. Ray Lankford, batting after McGwire, hit a solo home run to make it 8-6.

The Cubs blew a chance to win it in the bottom of the inning.

With two outs, Mark Grace singled, then moved to third on Henry Rodriguez's double. Juan Acevedo intentionally walked Jose Hernandez to load the bases, but Manny Alexander popped up to McGwire to end the game.

Acevedo (6-2) gave up two hits and one intentional walk in two innings. Terry Mulholland (3-4) gave up three hits and two runs – both homers – in 2⅓ innings. He walked one and struck out three.

Reds 8, Brewers 2

Pete Harnisch allowed five hits in 7⅔ innings and Sean Casey had a homer and an RBI double as Cincinnati won on the road.

Harnisch (9-6) took a shutout into the eighth before allowing a two-run homer to Fernando Vina. He struck out five and walked four.

Expos 8, Diamondbacks 2

Dustin Hermanson, who already had a two-hitter against host Arizona this year, gave up three hits in seven innings as Felipe Alou broke the record for most wins by a Montreal manager with 521, one more than Buck Rodgers.

After losing seven straight, the Expos won the last two on their nine-game road trip.

Vladimir Guerrero had three RBIs, two of them with his 30th home run of the season. Chris Widger drove in three with a bases-loaded double.

Marlins 6, Padres 0

Brian Meadows pitched seven shutout innings as host Florida snapped its five-game losing streak.

With Tony Gwynn and Ken Caminiti out with injuries, the Padres could only manage nine singles off Meadows (10-9) and two more against Vic Darensbourg and Brian Edmondson.

Pirates 6, Dodgers 5

Manny Martinez homered and drove in three runs and Pittsburgh rallied for a home win – the Dodgers' 10th loss in 14 games.

With interim general manager Tommy Lasorda watching on, the Dodgers (62-64) squandered leads of 3-0 and 5-4 to slip two games under .500 for the first time since they were 40-42 on June 30.

See BASEBALL, Page 23



DOUBLEBURGER – Cardinals' Mark McGwire celebrates his 10th-inning, game-winning HR, his 49th of the season. (Reuters)

Wanted: Loads of money for soccer

MY CALL
By ORI LEWIS

A new soccer season is upon us once more, with the same hopes and problems for almost all the same teams.

The money factor is again paramount in the teams' considerations and it can be stated with a very high degree of certainty that the less of it a club has, the less likely it is to succeed in what is expected to be one of the toughest seasons ever.

It will be difficult this time around quite simply because at the end of the 30-match campaign on May 29, 1999 three teams will be relegated as the league finishes the first stage of its reformation which will see the current two-division 16-team league cut to three divisions of 12 teams in each.

The top two divisions will comprise the fully professional ranks of Israeli soccer.

While the current relegation system might be considered cruel – only one team will be promoted at the end of this and next season – it will give the clubs the chance to prove o themselves first and foremost, that they can survive the tribulations of life in the cut-throat world of professional sport.

Israeli soccer is no easier than any other business in this, or any other capitalist society and several clubs – and their far-too loyal supporters – are finding out the hard way that without a major financial backer, life at the top can be anything but sweet, and at the same time, very, very short.

Thus, clubs like Maccabi and Hapoel Tel Aviv, Maccabi and Hapoel Haifa and Betar Jerusalem are far more likely to do well in the upcoming campaigns, while clubs like Bnei Yehuda, Zafririm Holon, Hapoel Beit She'an and Maccabi Jaffa are already in dire trouble, their very existence in doubt even before the first ball of the new season has been kicked.

Yes, this is likely to be the cruelest season ever for Israeli soccer and one can only hope that the general ineptitude at club management level will make way for a new streamlined approach in which the clubs will realize that there can be no life for a club which pays exorbitant salaries to its players while at the same time it fails to rein in the supporters by offering a decent return for their untiring devotion.

There should be no illusions for any of Israel's clubs and supporters. Even if the national team gains some decent results and there are some world-class Israeli players (many of whom are now playing beyond our shores), we have an awful lot of ground to make up to reach the level of even, say, the Turkish league in which it is unlikely any of Israel's club sides could compete and win consistently.

See WANTED, Page 23

Estevez keeps 1,500 crown in Spain

BUDAPEST (Reuters) – Reyes Estevez kept the European 1,500 meters title in Spain for another four years yesterday.

His withering burst on the penultimate bend settled the men's final.

Estevez, bronze medallist at last year's Athens world championships, accelerated twice on the final lap to draw the sting from defending champion Fermin Cacho.

Cacho, Spain's champion in Helsinki four years ago after capturing the 1992 Barcelona Olympic title, faded in the final straight after a rival trod on his foot. He was happy to hang on for third behind Portuguese Rui Silva.

Estevez, fastest man in Europe this year, said a slow early pace had suited him ideally "It was easy. I just did enough to ensure I would be in a position to win," he said after clocking three minutes 41.31 seconds.

Cacho, pointing to a torn right shoe, said somebody had stepped on his foot as he began his final sprint 100 meters from the line.

"Nevertheless I was not in top shape," he conceded.

Russian Yelena Afanasyeva, silver medallist in Athens, was equally convincing in the women's 800 meters, taking the field through the bell and remorselessly increasing her lead over the final lap to win in 1:58.50.

Erki Nool won the decathlon for Estonia with a total of 8,667 points ahead of Finland's world silver medallist Eduard Hamalainen. World champion Tomas Dvorak from the Czech Republic faded to fifth.

"I cannot tell you how happy I am," Nool said. "This is the first Estonian gold medal at a European championships since 1938."

World champion Annarita Sidoti, a tiny woman with a huge smile, won Italy's first gold of the championships in the women's 10 km walk. She clocked 42:49:05 ahead of team mate Erica Alfridi.

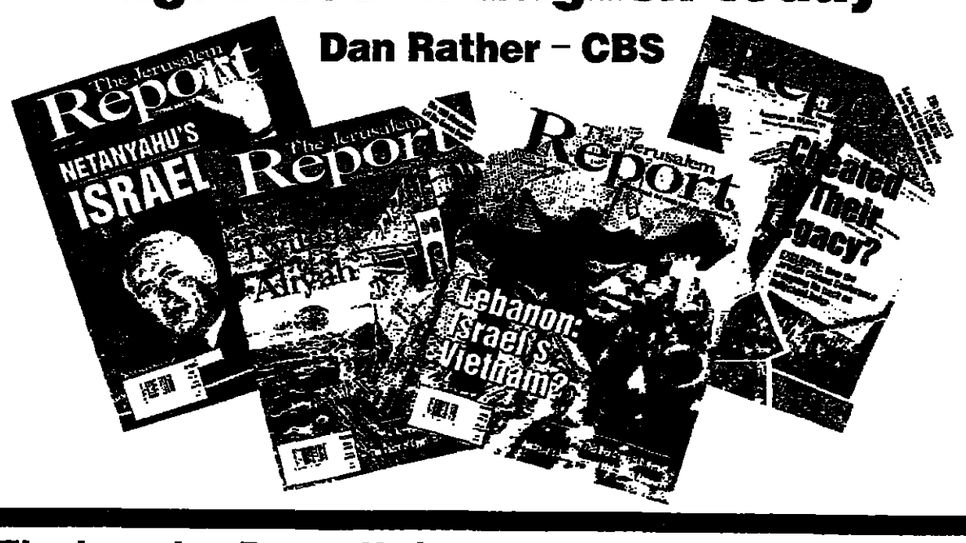
"We have written another golden page in Italian athletics history," Sidoti said.

Ukrainian Vita Pavlysh made no contest of the women's shot, setting a championship record of 21.69 meters. Her worst effort of the six rounds would have won the title by nearly a meter from silver medallist Irina Korzhanenko of Russia.

Pawel Januszewski produced the race of his life in the men's 400 meters hurdles, forging through the strong head wind in the final straight to win in a Polish record 48.17 seconds.

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...pressed sorrow ...ki'aan's murder in a teleph...conversation with Netanyah...Friday.
Netanyahu replied that th...tacly the reason the gov...ent is insisting that ...Palestinians abide by their c...mitments and on the need ...firm action on everyth...ensuring security. Once ...happens, a peace agreem...could be reached quic...Netanyahu said.
Netanyahu said over ...weekend he had ordered a ...tunnel structure be built a...

Hizbulla...

By DAVID RUDGE

An IDF soldier and a civ...lurking for the army ...killed late Thursday night ...roadside bomb explo...alongside their truck – just ...meters from the the Bea...Castle outpost in the sec...zone.
The inquiry by Nort...Command is concentrating ...how Hizbullah gunmen ...aged to get so close to the ...tion to plant the device ...killed Staff-Sgt. Moshe B...20, of Ben She'an and A...Haffa, 29, of Kiryat Shmon...Their deaths also raised ...tions about the use in the se...